

몽연 현대 판타지 소설

# 라이프 미션



KW

# **Life Mission**

– 라이프 미션 –

**- Volume 3 -**

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# Chapter 66

Bang bang!

Explosive bombs came flying without an end. Park Jin Hyuk created a scenario in his mind. The baby is easily scared. If it feels threatened, it will try to run away.

But if running away is not feasible? Then it will likely withdraw. He will aim at the entrance a few times and show that it is dangerous.

Since it could go out through the window as it had done before, he will destroy the prison wall.

There is more space for it to run away if the walls come down, but it will already be after the scared baby is deeply convinced of the danger.

He once saw an experiment done on animals on TV. He is applying it to mutants. If it works, it is a success. If it fails, he can keep doing what he was doing before.

His scheme worked. The baby hid in the corner, shaking in fear.

An adult would have seen right through the sleazy tricks, but even a newborn tiger is indistinguishable between a tiger and a cat.

Kung!

The male was taken aback and tried to go to the baby. Cha Jun Sung and Koharu stuck to it. The Lifers also blocked the female's actions to try to rescue the baby.

Keureung!

Kung!

The female roared and took action. It is only up to here. It wants the Lifers to go where they please, just leave the family alone.

There are various and complicated reasons mixed in. Cha Jun Sung and the Lifers

gathered to one place. The Slayers were showing signs of retreat.

The male cleared the debris, went into the prison, and brought the baby out.

It shook so much its muscles flapped. It is not a fitting appearance, but it is still a baby. As soon as it saw its parents, it stuck to them and would not separate.

The female took the baby and went to the mountain on the opposite side. The male kept awareness of Cha Jun Sung's group and followed. As the distance between them grew, the alarm sounded.

[The Slayers are giving up on battle in order to ensure the baby's safety. It is possible to quit the mission. Please halt your attack and wait.]

A helper mediated the fight and urged quitting the mission. The Lifers could not fight and win against the Slayers.

Park Jin Hyuk heard the alarm, stopped shooting, and observed the Slayers. It is impossible to communicate with them. They must not let down their guards until the very end.

Papat!

Sure enough, the male showed unexpected behavior. It suddenly changed its course and ran in the direction of the prison. Cha Jun Sung's group misunderstood it as an attack.

Pung!

Park Jin Hyuk had been watching all of this, and launched his last explosive bomb. If he aims to hit it, it will just avoid the shot. He aimed where he thought it would move.

Park Jin Hyuk had made a big mistake. He should have left the male alone.

Animals are different from humans in that once they make up their minds, they follow them foolishly.

Mutants are similar to animals in that sense. They are not all like that, but Slayers do not change their minds for the most part.

The baby's life is at risk. If it had decided to retreat, it would have retreated. The male had gone back to the prison because it wanted to retrieve the body of the older child.

But Park Jin Hyuk had fired an explosive bomb. It can understand up to here. It is normal for weak prey to try to defend itself.

The explosion came with a multitude of fragments and dust.

The male was resentful, but looked past it. The wounds from fragments embedded in its skin would heal in a few hours. More important is the body of the older child.

The dust cleared up. The male thought something was wrong with his sight. The body of the older child had been intact, but was now a mess like the meat it used to eat.

The last bomb that Park Jin Hyuk set off had taken half of the body and the rest was splattered on the prison wall.

Kung!

The angry male goes in a craze. It acts like a person who does not know what to do. It even starts drooling as it glares at Cha Jun Sung and the Lifers.

-[Warning!]

-[The male Slayer's A virus has passed the limit.]

When the Lifers heard the helper's alarm, the male had a strange feeling as though being cut off from consciousness. It is like its sanity is disappearing.

It's skin ripped to sprout new skin. The scratches and wounds Cha Jun Sung had given it, all healed.

3.5m body blew up to almost 5m. A new body is configured to fit the new size. It is no longer a level 3. I has developed beyond its species.

-[The adult Slayer has developed into a level 4 Destroyer. A special mission has been activated and the compensation has gone from 8000 to 20,000 points.]

-[The points have been increased to 20,000, promoting this to a level D advance mission.]

-[Special missions have been imposed twice. According to Life Mission regulations, an advanced cyborg will be summoned for the Lifers' safety.]

One special mission in conjunction is activated by the fault of the Lifers but the second can be seen as bad luck, so the helpers intervene.

There is no risk of exploiting fear because Lifers' abilities and deliberation are calculated.

-[There are 30 seconds left until the advanced cyborg is summoned. Quit the mission before the adult Slayer evolves into a Destroyer.]

There was chaos. Since Cha Jun Sung had started the reality version, he had never heard so many notices. This is the same for the other Lifers.

"Goodness, level 4!"

"There's no reason to hang on any longer! We will give up!"

The Lifers requested to quit. Cha Jun Sung and Koharu did not stop them. These Lifers had given their best. They had been as loyal as they had been rescued.

Their breathing becomes rough. The Slayer's process is bothering the Lifers. It would be pushed back by the Caicus, but their skin crawls.

"Koharu and Kyoko, quit the mission."

"What are you going to do?"

"I'm going to quit as well of course. I'll go with my friend, so go back first."

Cha Jun Sung told them that he would get in contact with them later and decided to meet in another mission. Koharu agreed, took Kyoko's hand, and requested to quit.

Woong!

When they were disappearing, a gate formed with a resonating sound.

The gate formed near Cha Jun Sung, and a cyborg with a large physique appeared. It looks strong even at first glance.

It resembles the human form and is over 2m large.

-[What are you doing? Why aren't you quitting?]

"You disappear when I ask for help, and now you're chirping like a bird?"

-[I am following the rules.]

"Stop nagging and answer my questions. This is an advancing mission, right? Is it considered complete if we kill the Destroyer with the cyborg?"

-[Are you crazy? All I did was summon inferior goods to buy you time.]

-[There is no reason for helpers to perform missions as complete cyborgs in the first place. Stop talking nonsense and quit.]

"Just tell me."

-[It is considered complete.]

"Great."

-[What, what is that?]

Odin's words went through Cha Jun Sung's ear and out the other. He will not fight blindly. He needs to check the cyborg's attack power.

# Chapter 67

Kung!

A pair of blades are sprouting from the area of the male's armpits. They are shaped for carving.

Woong!

The cyborg looked at Cha Jun Sung. It is artificial intelligence, but it did not interfere regarding quitting the mission. It does not care if he wants to die.

-[Enemy confirmed! External armor reinforced! Closed in mode! Vibrating weapons, buster mounted!]

Zing!

A sturdy metal armor covers the cyborg. Its left and right hands changed into a vibrating weapon and a buster that generates shockwaves.

The level 4 Destroyer looks up toward the top of the mountain. The prey over there is what made it so that he could not even retrieve his older child.

With one jump, it advances dozens of meters. It would arrive at Park Jin Hyuk in a few steps and a few seconds, but they would not sit back and watch.

The cyborg approached at high speed and launched the buster at the male's side. The male's flesh pushed back at the great shockwave.

Bang!

The ground shook as though a boulder had fallen. The male acted as if it felt nothing, brushed off its side, and got up from the ground.

-[If we kill it, level C opens up.]

-[Since it takes 5 seconds to return, shall we run away if the cyborg gets pushed back?]

I know because I've played a lot of games, but you need to take it when the opportunity comes.]

Pew!

Park Jin Hyuk held up the Head Hunter. The male sensed movement in the air and blocks it with the blades. The bullet is unable to penetrate the blades and becomes embedded on the surface.

The 3cm blade became twice as thick and is like a steel wall.

The cyborg and male face off. It is completely different from fighting with Cha Jun Sung. He cannot even participate as it is a complete war of monsters.

He would be killed by even one hit from either of them.

"You said inferior goods?"

There could be defects with the weapons or the cyborg itself. He does not know when it might be disposed of. It is risky to get involved once the cyborg is disadvantaged. He needs to go in now.

-[Kill the female and baby.]

-[You're going to create an opportunity? I'm aiming at them now anyway.]

The female and baby are puzzled by the male's change. It must be hard for even a mutant to understand. There is a way to create a huge blow.

-[Kill the female first.]

Puk!

A bullet from the Head Hunter goes through the female's head. He had always been too late when the Slayers were aware of the bullets. Letting their guard down is the downfall for mutants and humans alike.

Kyak!

Kuh?

The baby is wandering confused. The male's attention goes to the baby. It sees the female fall over. It had lost the female as well as the older child.

Kyak!

Bang!

The cyborg's kick hit the back of the male's knees.

It lost its balance because it had not been paying attention, and fell back. So it would not be able to get up, the cyborg shot a series of shockwaves at its chest with the buster.

"Now!"

Pat!

Cha Jun Sung kicked off from the ground. He remembered what Park Jin Hyuk had said. Once they step into a mission, the possibility is the difference and they are at the crossroads of life and death.

It is wise. They are always risking their lives. To advance farther than others? Then they need to risk more.

What if they quit, go into a force, and perform a 20,000 point advance mission? They need more than 100 people to take on something like the Destroyer.

With the appearance of the advanced cyborg, they had acquired information on the mission and the chance to complete the mission with reinforcements.

[Shoot the baby too!]

Pew!

They do not consider the baby as a powerful force either. It is a weakness with which to distract the male.

Kyak!

The baby follows the female. The male looks devastated. He feels empty. In the course

of a day, his entire family has been killed and he is all alone in the world.

Tatatat!

Cha Jun Sung went behind the male fallen on the ground, stepped on its shoulder, and bound it. At the feeling of someone stepping on its shoulder, the male waved its blade around.

“Ack! Die!”

He avoided the first blade, but the second cut Cha Jun Sung’s right arm off. He clenched his teeth and did not loosen his hold on the Wolf Kill with his left hand.

He can be treated in the briefing room. He cannot quit now after coming all the way here.

Puk!

The Wolf Kill penetrated the male’s head and went through its brains. Cha Jun Sung stuck it in and jumped down. Blood is seeping out. He feels dizzy.

-[Jun Sung!]

Park Jin Hyuk was surprised and came down from the mountain. It is the first injury in their mission.

Kuh!

Bang bang!

The cyborg keeps attacking the male. It will only stop once it stops breathing.

The male cannot find balance between of the pain in its head and the attacks, and flails. It has incredible vitality as it can move even after having its brain penetrated.

-[You have earned 20,000 points.]

It must be at the top of level 4 mutants because they earned 10 times what they would for a level 3.

-[You have cleared Slayer's Prison with 2 conjunction special missions nested inside. Level C missions and store have been opened.]

Ha ha ha ha!

It is a huge success. Level C missions and store have been opened. As long as they have the points, they can go through the 4th stage of body modifications and purchase the battle shoot.

-[Cha Jun Sung... How could you...]

There is shock in Odin's voice. Rather than the mission completion, he is more surprised by how Cha Jun Sung had risked his life. It is not easy as it means throwing oneself away.

The start was foolhardy, but the end paid off. He is so ecstatic, he cannot express it. There is nothing he can do if he is called insane, but what can they do?

"Are you okay?"

"Yeah."

"Ugh! Look at the blood!"

Park Jin Hyuk looked at Cha Jun Sung with admiration. It felt like he could get through arduous adversity as long as it was with Cha Jun Sung.

-[What are you going to do about the cyborg?]

"What about it?"

-[It is inferior goods that was sent to you to buy you time. Since it isn't worth recovering, it is disposable. It is also out of energy, so it's no longer of use to us.]

"I can keep it?"

-[That's what I'm telling you to do. We didn't know it would end like this.]

"Thanks."

Cha Jun Sung touched the cyborg. It stopped when its target died.

[Were you not scared?]

“Of course I was. It’s terror. How could I not be scared when there’s a monster in front of me?”

He had not expressed it. He faced death several times. But he needs to advance. The day that he does not look up because a wall is high is the day it is all over.

“I’m going.”

-[It was a great play.]

He returned to the briefing room. There are a lot of things he gained in this mission.

# Chapter 68

Cha Jun Sung turned his right arm. It healed over 2 days. He had thought that it could be treated like other normal injuries by going into the healing capsule.

“You said it would have taken at least 1 week if I had left my arm there? Whew! How scary!”

2 days is considered fast. It had been a strange feeling when he picked up his arm but fortunately, there had been something he saw before that made him take it with him.

They said treatment was easy because the cut was clean. It was frustrating because he could not move one arm. It consumed several times what it normally took as well.

“Huh! I’ve been looking at it for 2 days straight but I don’t get sick of it. Why is there so much?”

While he was healing, he was lost in looking through the level C mission list and store.

Excluding a part of it, E-D class store is full of items that can be created with modern science. Starting with C class on the other hand, there is a mix of half.

Even the types of weapons exceed professional levels with guns. It is even possible to purchase a panzer, tank, or helicopter.

“There’s nothing easy in any of the missions either. My expectations were exactly right.”

As long as the effort is made in level E, it is possible to go up to level D. This is where the first test comes. He experienced 2 level Ds, but was promoted.

When fighting with something like the Destroyer, how many out of 100 people would survive?

There will be many Lifers who get stuck with level 4 and give up on advancing to level C. It is unnecessary to mention S through B because those are matters of the future.

The range for level C reward points is quite wide, from 10,000 to 2 million. It destroys the point system existing in levels D through E.

He can understand. The Caicus is a level 5. Could he guess what a level 6 is like?

The points do not increase just because of the mutant's power. Missions become more complicated as the maps span more distance and there are more variables.

As the difficulty grows, it becomes harder for Lifers to advance. They need to pass this to go higher.

If D is a test, C will be a wall of despair.

"Now there are such things called achievement points."

It is a system that did not exist in D and E. These achievement points are needed to purchase items from the class C store. But not all items require this.

Categories that are considered absolutely necessary to Lifers ask for a certain amount. It is a way to estimate the standard of activity in a mission.

If mediocre Lifers somehow make it to level C by hopping on the backs of others, they cannot purchase items even if they have a lot of points.

It is the helpers' early measures of blocking out indiscriminate promotions. Could killing mutants be the only way to earn achievement points?

The main method is to kill them, but the process is just as important. Did they kill it alone, was it with other people, did they just get help without putting in any effort of their own?

It is calculated in real-time by the helper that follows each Lifer. Levels C and D are the limits for bus Lifers, and level C is really half and half.

This makes no difference to talented Lifers like Cha Jun Sung. The points will come in if they keep fighting as they had been.

"...I'm losing motivation looking at this."

Click!

Cha Jun Sung looked at an item on the hologram with fascination. Then he saw the points to purchase it and quickly became depressed.

-[Basic Type Battle Shoot: 10,000,000 points.]

-[Description: As the basic model of the battle shoot, it uses the helper's artificial intelligence to create the best combat experience and attack power. Upgrades vary widely according to the style.]

"Ho ho!"

He could not help laughing. He was in a state of disbelief. Goodness! It is not 1 million, but 10 million points!

It would take several years to gather that much even if he earned thousands of points every day.

-[It is possible if you complete a 5000 point level D mission 140 times.]

Odin suddenly started talking. He says 140, but this is not made to buy. It means they do not mean to sell it. That is right. It is an ornament.

The number of mutants that appear changes according to the reward points. Calculated on standards of the Biology Institute, there could be over 70,000 points if handled alone.

"You guys have no conscience. Do you even want to sell the battle shoot?"

-[Tsk tsk! Do you even know what kind of item that is? If you go through the 4th stage of body modifications and have the battle shoot, you could take 20,000 points all by yourself.]

"How many points do you give me if I earn 20,000 points! You won't give much."

-[We give 400,000 to 450,000.]

That is a lot. If he gets 450,000 in one mission, it will be quick to save millions. But what good is that? That is possible on the grounds that he has the battle shoot.

"I guess the only thing that is of comfort is the body modification."

Zing!

The store window changes. It goes from the battle shoot to body modification.

-[Body Modification, 3rd Stage, 100%: 400,000 points]

-[Body Modification, 4th Stage, 100%: 800,000 points]

-[It would be difficult to find level 4 with the 4th stage, but 3rd stage is enough. It will suffice for missions under 10,000.]

He needs 1.2 million points total. At this rate, he will not be able to escape the sea of points. But this is nothing compared to the battle shoot.

“Let’s go to the briefing room to take care of the junk you were about to dispose of.”

-[It will become useful if you just invest the points into it. Exert yourself more.]

“Alright alright. Send me.”

Woong!

The image Cha Jun Sung waving his hand to not be bothered was irksome.

# Chapter 69

Cha Jun Sung looked over the cyborg he had left in the briefing room. It looks fine on the outside, but its energy core has run out and cannot act.

The defects are on the good side. To compare it to a car? Its windows and bumper have been broken and its bodywork is dented, but there is no problem with its ability to run.

The internal defects are the serious ones. If the main parts including the engine are dysfunctional, it will be hard to fix and it would cost too much to replace the parts.

That is the state of the cyborg. Parts like the framework and metal armor are external matters that can be fixed immediately with an investment of a small amount of points.

The engine core, which acts as the heart, burned during battle with the Destroyer. It was more difficult to find parts that were intact rather than looking for the parts to fix.

“I did take it because it was free, but this is too much.”

-[It is cheaper to switch out a few parts than to purchase the finished product.]

“Is this just a few parts? I have to completely grind this thing out. I would’ve focused on body modification if you hadn’t given this thing to me, but it keeps catching my eye!”

Although it was short, he had clearly seen the advanced cyborg’s ability to fight.

It has the ability to go into hand-to-hand combat and battle a level 4 Destroyer. If he can just fix this cyborg, there could not be a better companion.

-[Power Type Advanced Cyborg: 5,000,000 points]

-[Description: Tanker type cyborg configured of C class parts. With 30 times the strength of humans and a sturdy outer armor, it matches up against enemies without weakness.]

It may seem like a windfall just by looking at the point value, but the reality is not as bright.

Excluding a few parts, the rest would have to be replaced or repaired. Cha Jun Sung has 80,000 points. This will fall short by a lot.

The urgent part is the energy core. Without it, it cannot operate at all. He could manage somehow without the other parts, but the energy core would need to be replaced immediately.

“How am I supposed to buy something that costs 2 million points?”

-[Even if you can't buy a C class energy core, there is a way to quickly resolve it for now.]

“What is it?”

Cha Jun Sung is alert. The cyborg would be able to take on 100 alone. He did keep complaining, but he really did want to use it.

-[Temporarily take the energy core from the Wolf Kill and attach it to the cyborg.]

“This?”

Cha Jun Sung took the Wolf Kill out of his space compression bag. Dissect this?

“Won't it get messed up?”

-[You are just taking out the energy core. You can attach it again at any time.]

-[The output might be a little weak because it is D class but if you just make sure to check its arms well, it has the ability to take on 2 level 3 mutants.]

“It's tempting.”

With the cyborg next to him, it would be helpful in earning points and it would be reassuring.

The points that the cyborg earns goes to the owner. Achievement points come in as well, but a lot of points are taken off because the owner did not catch the mutant

himself.

-[Most of the machinery in vibrating weapons and cyborg parts overlap.]

“So to put it simply, if we dismantle the Wolf Kill, we can make the cyborg run?”

-[Are you trying to get it for free? You also have to use the 80,000 points you’ve gathered.]

“Then how many times can it run?”

-[Calculating output rate... Calculation complete. It is different according to the mission’s difficulty level. 5 times for 3000 points, 2 times for 5000 points.]

“Hey! The Wolf Kill is 450,000 points but we won’t make much by going in twice!”

-[You can charge the energy core as you do with a vibrating weapon. Even if it takes points, it’s just a few thousand. It comes out to be cheap if you think about what you will earn.]

“Aha!”

Cha Jun Sung shouted in understanding. He has charged the Wolf Kill before and after using it once, it only took a few hundred points to recharge.

“Do I have a choice?”

He is desperate for an ally. For efficiency, it is better to repeatedly complete level E 3000 point missions. Level D 5000 points is not bad either.

But he does not feel like joining a force and it is impossible to get through a level D alone. The cyborg will be more helpful than the Wolf Kill.

He is sure because he has already seen its ability to fight. It would be dominant in levels E and D.

“Fix it.”

-[Alright.]

“It really won’t get messed up, right?”

Odin is not answering again. He went into the lab with the Wolf Kill and cyborg. He bought 80,000 points worth of parts on his PDA.

He is told it will take a few days. He put the shell of a Wolf Kill in the cyborg’s hand. It needs something to fight with, doesn’t it?

“It’s my new one.”

Cha Jun Sung held the katana he used in the beginning. Until he earns the points he needs, he’ll let the cyborg lead. He will not just stand back and be helped.

He will use it at a line where he does not lose his senses. It is not good to be excessive.



-[With the Wolf Kill’s energy core as the cyborg’s power source, a few parts, and a deduction of 80,000 points, its basic battle power has been restored.]

-[We eliminated its weapon changing function and unified the attack mode. It has been adjusted to obey only orders from artificial intelligence and is in a state where it has lost itself.]

-[The only equipment it possesses is the Wolf Kill shell, metal armor, and strong outer shell, but this makes it possible for it to battle one-on-one with level 3.]

-[Predictions for completion are 1 day for 3000 points and 5 days for 5000 points. Keep in mind that it can be dangerous to leave the battle up to the cyborg.]

-[Charging the minimum to maximum takes 4000 points.]

Cha Jun Sung listened to Odin’s explanation and nodded with satisfaction.

“You’re giving me predictions for completion and warning me about the dangers. Are you really Odin?”

-[Cha Jun Sung, you opened level C missions and have met certain conditions. You are able to receive more useful information from your helper than other Lifers can.]

“So you mean that as I go higher, you can share more of what you know?”

-[That is right.]

If he goes all the way to level S, it looks like he will get to know all of the secrets of Life Mission.

“I guess I’ll get to know over time.”

Letting the cyborg lead, he will gather the points to go through body modification and to fix it. After, he will arm it and they will aim for the battle shoot.

Other than that, if he is to get everything he is thinking of including an expansion for the space compression bag, he needs about 20 million points.

It is not an amount to settle short term. It will be a long distance race.

# Chapter 70

In the few days that he left the cyborg for repair, he got 2 appointments. Koharu and Kyoko, and Ghost Gun Lim Si Hyun. He will be meeting the sisters soon.

He has gone into a 3000 point mission to test the cyborg. Park Jin Hyuk will be coming in as well. The time is coming for them to become a 4-person party.

They had not spoken after quitting the mission, so there will be a lot that they are wondering about. He was to meet with Lim Si Hyun the week after the next. There are 12 days left.

Han Chang Jin will also be coming out then. He will need to hear what Lim Si Hyun has to say, but his image is not bad. He can tell that the man is upright.

Lim Si Hyun had been active in North America as well, so they were in parties together and they had come face-to-face a few times, but he had never seen Han Chang Jin because he is in South America.

There are 13 of the 36 rankers that Cha Jun Sung has never seen before. Han Chang Jin is among those. That is how wide the continent is.

If they do not look for each other, it is harder than looking for a needle in a haystack. Whatever it is, he will be able to hear what Han Chang Jin is thinking when they meet in person.

“I’ll leave it to you.”

Cha Jun Sung shook off his thoughts and pat the cyborg’s shoulder. There is no reaction. Its artificial intelligence has been minimized.

Communication is done by inputting a few commands in adjustment. This was also barely settled with a part from the Wolf Kill and 80,000 points.

Woong!

Since they entered as soon as they formed the party, Cha Jun Sung’s summon was the

fastest. How many minutes had passed? Koharu, Kyoko, and Park Jin Hyuk came in.

“Pails!”

“Welcome, Koharu, Kyoko.”

“Hello!”

The situation in Slayer’s Prison had not allowed them to properly meet.

“Female party members!”

Park Jin Hyuk smiles widely. It is such a dumb laugh that the sisters join in laughing as well. They know that it is out of pure intentions.

“Is that the cyborg you fixed?”

“My Wolf Kill is inside of that, so it’s been dismantled part by part.”

Park Jin Hyuk circled the cyborg and examined it carefully. If the metal armor is taken out of account, it is basically a pro-wrestler.

“How about its ability to fight?”

“It’s output of power falls short with its current state, so it’s similar to 1 or 2 level 3 mutants.”

1 strong one and 2 weak ones. The negative is that even though it is an advanced cyborg, the quality of the parts is low and it can only give an intermediate performance.

They have to be thankful if it even does that. Even a middle class goes for 1.5 million.

Cyborgs below levels 1 and 2 in power are more helpful in everyday life than they are in battle, and they are a waste of points. It would be better to buy weapons instead.

“If we ride this bus, I think we’ll gather points easily. There’s less danger too.”

Park Jin Hyuk is right, but they need to pay attention to achievement points too. If they raised all the points they need and fall short of achievement points, they are at a dead

end.

“Pails, what are achievement points? And what’s this cyborg?”

Koharu intervened in the conversation. She and Kyoko quit and left the mission before the cyborg was summoned. They do not know anything about it.

Cha Jun Sung explained it. The women were told what happened after they left the mission as well as what achievement points are.

Cha Jun Sung did not leave out anything regarding the cyborg, level C mission, or store either.

“It was too dangerous! Why didn’t you let us participate?”

“Because it isn’t my life. I can’t ask others to risk their lives. That kid doesn’t matter because he isn’t scared of anything.”

Park Jin Hyuk smiled proudly and put up a V with his fingers.

He was far from the Destroyer, so he would have had time to quit the mission in the worst case scenario.

“It’s a pity.”

“Since we’re a fixed party now, we’ll give a lot of help. Don’t regret it too much.”

It would become busy because they need to practice working together. Koharu asked everything she did not know about level C missions. Cha Jun Sung and Park Jin Hyuk took care of a sister each.

The men did not act bothered by it. The women became surprised as they heard more. It was a new world.

“Question! What do I do? I can’t fight.”

“It’s okay.”

Kyoko is a medic. She cannot earn achievement points by killing mutants. Her mission is to follow Lifers around to treat them.

“Apparently at the end of missions, helpers show integrity and give points to medics appropriately. I think the distribution system is different for out of combat jobs than they are for combat work.”

This is what he heard from Odin. The helpers built a balanced system to keep everything fair. They do not miss anything.

“We’ll need to start by seeing the cyborg’s ability. If it is as useful as we think it is, we’ll be able to complete level D missions with these members.”

Whether 4 people can go into level D or not is dependent on the cyborg.

While going into 3000 point missions several times, they need to figure out how to communicate with the cyborg. They will go into level D if they are ready. They cannot ignore the atmosphere either.

“Mutant in the front.”

“Really?”

The cyborg speaks. It is a monotonous and prosaic voice. Its sensor must have captured a mutant. It is not able to detect the numbers of them though.

The cyborg’s battling power is middle class, but everything else is lower.

“Kill all of them.”

“Mission received! Annihilation!”

The cyborg took out the Wolf Kill and ran forward. Cha Jun Sung’s group watched and ran after it in a relaxed state.

They wanted to see its skills.



The cyborg showed force. It is not well armed, so it used its strength to kill the mutants by ripping them apart, crushing them, and twisted them.

Dozens of angry level 1 mutants join in the melee.

Not even attacks from level 2 mutants are able to penetrate its metal armor and outer shell. The cyborg rolled over the mutants and crushed them as if it were a tank.

“What a spectacle.”

“They get stuck at the metal armor.”

Cha Jun Sung and Park Jin Hyuk were not surprised because they had seen the cyborg fight before, but the Koharu sisters showed their shock.

“A fly’s going to go into your mouths. That’s pretty weak too. It was a few times stronger than this when it was fighting the Destroyer.”

It slaughters the mutants with the Wolf Kill as they approach it. It does not need the vibration function. It can slice them up with the cutting blade and its own strength.

-[You have earned 20 points and 2 achievement points.]

-[You have earned 20 points and 2 achievement points.]

Ring!

Point build up in Cha Jun Sung’s PDA. The points only go to the owner of the cyborg that is killing the mutants. They were not distributed to the party members.

No one complained. They had come into this mission to test performance.

“It toys with level E.”

“You said that the cyborg doesn’t need points, but parts?”

“Right.”

“Then I’ll buy the parts you need and give them to you.”

“Huh?”

“If we help it out, it’ll find its original features quickly.”

They are receiving aid. They would like to make deals with points but since they

cannot do that, they are trying to give him parts. If the cyborg becomes stronger, it is beneficial for the party as well.

“We’ll help as well!”

“What do you need?”

# Chapter 71

Koharu and Kyoko also said that they would support with parts. If the 4 of them gather together, it will be much faster to get the parts than Cha Jun Sung working alone.

If the cyborg is returned to its original state and is equipped with the best gear, they could even go into a 10,000 point mission. The party can support it.

Cha Jun Sung figured something out while he was going through the Slayer's Prison.

This is something that Lifers have been saying for a while, but earning a high number of achievement points does not always mean that there are a lot of mutants.

The Destroyer's inherent strength brought the points up to 20,000. There were the female and baby as well, but most of the power was from the male.

Normally while playing the game, they fight with the little guys before facing the boss. But this mission skipped the step and went right to the boss.

If they look for missions like that, they can gather a lot of points. If they look through Lifer World, it is evident that these are not rare.

There would be as much danger as well, but they need to bear with it.

"The Biology Institute. You think the mutants will jump out as soon as we open it, right?"

"Yes. They were banging on the door. I don't know how many were inside, but I think there are a few thousand."

It was 12,000 points. They can make an attempt as soon as the cyborg is complete. However, there are steps to take and they need to go through the process.

"We can deal with the weapons later but let's adjust the artificial intelligence and core first, and look at the parts."

It is better to buy the expensive items first if they are going to buy them. If they

purchase the cheaper parts first, they will look at the more expensive parts and think when they will be able to gather enough points.

The human psychology is simple. It is a kind of motivation.

The basics are important in whatever it is. When constructing a building, the ground and framework are the first focus.

They will raise its intellect with artificial intelligence and raise its power with an energy core fitting for an advanced cyborg. Then it will even be able to face off against a level 4 mutant.

“Moderately.”

Riding the bus is good too, but they cannot get into the habit of relying on the cyborg too much. They will invest moderately in the cyborg and invest in themselves.

“With body modifications and the necessary parts alone, it’ll be about 3 million points.”

Park Jin Hyuk’s eyes grew wide at Cha Jun Sung’s complaint. He thought of something incredible. If they do well, it could contribute greatly to gathering points.

“Let’s receive kickbacks of achievement points as well.”

“Kickbacks?”

“We won’t be able to get big parts, but I think it would be okay for small ones.”

No matter how they try to push the points to Cha Jun Sung, it would take months. If they receive bribes like large guilds do, they can reduce the time.

“I don’t really want to do it.”

“Just listen.”

Koharu and Kyoko listened carefully as well. Japanese guilds take bribes from Lifers as well. How is he trying to take them?

While everyone was concentrating on what Park Jin Hyuk was saying, the cyborg was

taking on hundreds of mutants alone.

A strange situation was unfolding in the same place.



Click!

Cha Jun Sung opened up his blog again. He accepted Park Jin Hyuk's proposal. Bribes are the best way to gather millions of points within moments.

He opened the blog because he was going to use Overload's fame.

Say that he leaves a message on Lifer World that he is going to create a party with kickbacks. Why would people trust him to apply?

If people ask a large guild, they can complete missions safely. There is a high chance that they will have to give bribes, but that is directly related to the probability of surviving, so people accept it.

If Cha Jun Sung wants to enter the world of bribery, he needs to expect to put in a lot of effort. Since he does not have the time for that, he is going to take a shortcut.

"There's no point in hiding when people are hacking into the blog to get my personal information anyway."

He will use his helper's name and cover his face with a helmet. But what if he is found out anyway? Then he is found out. He needs to be aware of that much danger.

The bulletin is going up. It is regarding the party operated by Overload.

[Hello. Is everyone well? It has been a long time. I am sure there will be people who look at this negatively, but I am thinking of creating a party with kickbacks.] [Kickbacks for reward points is limited to 20% and I will complete a 3000 point mission for you within a day. I promise this in Overload's name.] [I put all of the details up on the bulletin, so please take a look at it.]

He hit enter. It is guaranteed to be popular. Cha Jun Sung did not think that he himself is great, but Overload is different.

“I’ll figure out my affairs myself. I can’t take from my party members.”

The party members will be acting separately until they gather a certain amount of points. They need to get their gear as well. He will have enough with just the kickbacks.



A herd of Lifers are waiting for a summon gate.

There are 9 people; Lifers who had seen the notice on Overload’s blog. They are Cha Jun Sung’s customers, passengers on his bus.

There are a few with exotic appearances. They are foreigners. Cha Jun Sung’s blog is famous all over the world. It is not limited to Korea.

With that, they have a diverse party to work with.

Does he take just anyone? He focused on level 7 and 8 Lifers of the people who applied on his blog. There were only a couple hundred, but applicants came in.

Like a blog on Life Mission should, it separated Lifers into levels 1 through 9 as mutants are classified. Level 7s are fans who have been dedicated to Life Mission for over 5 years.

It is a pity but he needed to pledge the level 1 through 6 people for next time. There is nothing he can do. Cha Jun Sung was also more comfortable dealing with people who are hospitable to him.

Cha Jun Sung memorized the ID names of all 9 primary applicants. He does not know their faces, but they had communicated actively.

“To see Overload in real life!”

“I’m nervous!”

“It looks like his blog is more important abroad than it is in Korea.”

There are only 3 Korean people and the other 6 are foreigners. 4 level 7s, 5 level 8s; the blog owner is Korean but it is more popular abroad.

The Korean people were speaking and the rest were quiet. There are differences in nationality, but these Lifers are just here to ride the bus and did not even install translators.

They consider it more important to make money by selling points than purchasing gear.

“What do you think Overload’s gear will be like?”

## Chapter 72

“Since his main weapon is the sword, don’t you think he’ll definitely have a vibrating weapon?”

He did have one. Until he dismantled it to put it in the cyborg’s stomach.

Woong!

The summons gate opened. Cha Jun Sung is entering. If a party is formed and the members enter a mission, they cannot break up the group or quit.

Is that why? The Lifers did not worry about this aspect.

“Hello. I am Overload. I’m embarrassed to meet you all in real life.”

“Hello!”

When Cha Jun Sung gave his introduction first, the others greeted him.

Awkwardness is the first emotion that Cha Jun Sung feels. For him to be the operator of the bus feels like he is wearing clothes that are not his.

The Lifers look all over Cha Jun Sung’s body. What could it be? They are examining his body to take a look at the famous Cha Jun Sung’s gear.

They look confused. His gear is mediocre. It is okay, but it is the type that can easily be found among large guild executives.

It does not fit in with what they had imagined and wished for the famous Overload.

‘His gear is...’

‘Is it because virtual and reality are different?’

‘Maybe his gear isn’t much but he wins with control? It’ll be possible with Overload.’

They did not express it, but they had negative thoughts. Cha Jun Sung noticed this. He does not care. They will soon be shocked.

The cyborg comes through the summons gate. The Lifers' eyes widened. The members entering the mission are a total of 10 including Cha Jun Sung.

"Huh? 11 people?"

"Overload, no Odin, who is that? Our party is full."

The summons gate closed. The Lifers were more confused because it came out of the same gate that Cha Jun Sung did. How did 3 of them come from the same place?

"You were disappointed when you saw my gear? Let me give you an introduction. This is my cyborg, Hercules. It's because I put all of my points into fixing this guy up."

He had given the cyborg a name. Hercules, half god and half human son of Zeus and Alcmene. It is perfect for something that fights with strength.

"Wow!"

"Cyborg!"

The Lifers made a fuss, thinking 'Of course! It's Overload!' Then they went to Hercules and started touching it.

It feels like steel or a rock. Not even a needle would penetrate it.

"It'll be a lower cyborg since you opened level D, but will it be helpful?"

One Lifer threw a sharp question. The cyborg sold in level D is of a lower level. Even if it is well armed, it cannot take on more than a few level 2 mutants.

"It is of middle class. I was completing a mission when I was given the opportunity to get it."

It is too early to say that he went into level C. There are chances of experiencing windfall in a mission, and he made sure to emphasize that point.

It is true that he did pick it up. He had taken something that was going to be disposed of.

“Wow! Middle class?”

“Then the abilities of a middle class?”

“After testing it, it seems to be able to take on a strong level 3 one-on-one.”

The Lifers did not have the energy to be surprised anymore, and their jaws were dropped. They have never seen a level 3 mutant because they are in level E missions. How strong does that mean it is?

A low class cyborg costs 150,000 points. Its efficiency is low compared to the price so even in the virtual version, it is only used as a shield or to carry the owner's gear.

Starting with the middle class however, it has a lot of uses. Its price is incredible as well.

“I guess it's only sold in the level C store?”

“I guess so since it's not in level D.”

“400,000 points went into just fixing it. I'm sure it will.”

Cha Jun Sung responded to the Lifers. It is better to release some information rather than trying to hide it all. Word of it will spread anyway while he goes through missions.

“We will go in now.”

“Good!”

The Lifers cheered. The storm surrounding Hercules was tremendous.

“Hercules, go out and kill all mutants within a 1km radius.”

“Mission confirmed!”

Hercules went outside the building. The Lifers did not need to follow. If they hang around safe spots, the mission will be over.

Attainment or escape is difficult for Hercules with its limited artificial intelligence. The order to kill resolves everything.

“I’ve never ridden a bus like this!”

“How could this be! If the cyborg takes care of all of the mutants, there’s nothing for us to do?”

Cha Jun Sung is used to level E missions. If they get past the regular radius, there is the chance for a special mission. They need to decide on a distance and play within it.

“Is there anyone here who is willing to ride the bus long term?”

“How are you going to operate long term?”

“I intend to go periodically once a day at a decided time.”

4 Lifers held up their hands. It is a bother even trying to look for another bus. The other 5 did not speak. They were just going to ride the bus a few times and rest for a while.

There is one reason why he wants fixed passengers. He can buy the cheaper parts with a couple hundred points, but they can go up to a few tens of thousands later.

If Cha Jun Sung takes this on all alone, there is no reason to let other people on his bus.

He could figure out a few tens of thousands, but he will need external power beyond that. If he is to do that, he needs to find as many long term passengers as he can.

He is thinking of receiving a large part and letting them ride the bus a few times, or letting them ride a few times and then getting the large part. He is estimating that it will take 2 to 3 months to make 3 million.

It is a level E mission now, but if he gets back about half of Hercules’ abilities, he will go into level D. The power he is aiming for is that of a weak level 4.

If it is at that level, it can be left out to go kill on its own. The limit of an advanced cyborg is level 4. Even if it is armed well, level 5 is asking for too much.

It could catch it if it self-destructs, but one goes for 5 million points. They need to act according to their own abilities. If they go beyond it, they are at a disadvantage.

“Do you all just ride the bus and not participate in the mission?”

“Because it’s dangerous.”

“The points we have after kickbacks come out to the cost of an entire house.”

Hearing their reasoning, most do not have much ambition, are scared of the danger, or have families to take care of. They are the typical bus Lifers.

Bus Lifers are separated into 2 categories. Those trying to make money, and those trying to advance quickly. There is nothing to be done about the first, but the latter is a misjudgment.

There is a clear difference between advancing with external forces and advancing through effort. Even if the outside is gold, it is all worth nothing if the inside is hollow. It is as bad as not doing anything at all.

-[You have earned 20 points and 2 achievement points.]

The points are coming in. Hercules had started to catch the mutants.

They need to wait a day. The mutants could approach them, so they need to set up booby traps. A few claymores will block all of the passageways.

“Would you like to hear a sermon?”

“Sermon?”

“Shall I say it’s a sermon regarding staying alive in the mission? It should work until you get to level D.”

Hercules will catch the mutants. It is a waste to throw away the remaining time.

These are people who gave him strength for a long time while he was running the blog. They will go in starting with 300 points. He hopes it becomes a well-slicked foundation for them.

When there is free time, he teaches the Lifers how to survive in the reality version. Official figures say that there have been over 10 million deaths and people are still dying.

Once level C opens up, more people will die. They are on the ride now to make money,

but they need to have some basic skills just in case they ever come across a solo mission.

“If you keep this in mind, you’ll reduce the threat of danger and you’ll be able to complete solo missions of low points. Then you won’t need to find a bus.”

“Aren’t you losing customers?”

“That’s right!”

Hah!

Losing customers? He does not care. He will not be operating the bus forever. Once he gathers the basic amount he needs, he will be doing this less and will attack a level C mission.

The Lifers listened up. It is what their idol, Overload, is saying. If they listen, it will all become flesh and blood.

It was only in the virtual but of these people, there is even a Lifer who reached a decent level.

“To survive in a mission...”

The lecture proceeds.



Cha Jun Sung is pressing buttons on the calculator. He is calculating the points he earned with his bus. He had been expecting it, but the additional income is pretty good.

With the 3000 reward, 30,000 with taking all of the mutants and the 5400 points worth of parts and necessities from the Lifers, he had made close to 40,000.

It is not the exact 600 that he needs for Hercules. There are 540 and 550 as well. He used this for bullets.

If he gathers small parts to manufacture, they become a big part that is necessary to Hercules. He only purchases what cannot be produced.

“At this rate, I’ll fill the 3 million within 3 months. I’m sure it’ll be faster once we cross into level D. If I estimate with more time, I can even get the battle shoot.”

Accepting bribes in level E is 160,000 in 1 month. That’s 500,000 in 3 months. Personal reasons why he cannot go into missions can arise, but the estimate is that much.

It is an amount that cannot be underestimated. He could understand why large guilds go through so much trouble to take points. It does not mean that they are better off than Cha Jun Sung though.

Cha Jun Sung takes everything by himself, but large guilds need to take care of the master, vice master, cadres, and guild members. They leak through as much as they earn.

-[If everything goes favorably, you will be able to finish within the time you allotted.]

“Right?”

-[The thing that holds you back are achievement points. Even though you are the owner of the cyborg, the amount of achievement points you earn are low because you don’t lift a finger.]

Odin is not wrong. The achievement points needed to purchase items is 20% of the price. If he catches mutants now, he only gets 10%.

If he leaves it the way it is, he could run into trouble at the very end.

“I know.”

-[Do you have a way to resolve it?]

“If I think too much into it, there’s no end. I’m going to use Hercules as a defense for a few months to get gear and go through the 4th stage of body modifications. Then, I’m going to start getting involved too.”

When he dismantled the vibrating function from the Wolf Kill, he had lost the will to fight.

Honestly, he is also tired from working so hard. Since his body will not be deteriorating

from taking a break, he is going to rest and start the engine up again later.

-[Do as you please.]

Odin responded bluntly. Cha Jun Sung just went past it. That is his helper. Even if it talks like that, it is because it is worried about him.

“I should go in with my colleagues as a party too sometimes since they’re meaningful people to me.”

The reality version will become a level too high to complete as solo missions as time goes by. Points are important, but there is no point if he does not have a party.



Today is Friday. As 9 days passed, he ran his bus 10 times. Including the mission he went in with his colleagues, he made about 400,000 points.

It is enough to get him through the 3rd stage of body modifications, but he is falling short in achievement points.

He invested greatly in Hercules. Thanks to this, defects in small aspects of it disappeared. Of course there are still a lot of places to work on in the bigger parts.

Cha Jun Sung will be taking a break from the bus for 1 day tomorrow. He has an important appointment.

It is the day he was supposed to meet with Lim Si Hyun and Han Chang Jin. He is iffy about revealing his face, but they already knew enough about him and he felt like he would need to meet with them at least once.

# Chapter 73

The headquarters of Seven Stars was unlike other large guilds and had a strange atmosphere.

This is not in regards to how large or small the building is, or how modern or shabby it is. It is the best guild in Korea. It is much larger and more magnificent than Hocheon's.

Cha Jun Sung looks around him. His eyes move without rest. The people walking through the 1st floor lobby stare at him with interest.

Due to the nature of the guild, a large proportion is made up of celebrities. The master, Lim Si Hyun, was an actor as well.

'She's pretty.'

Male celebrities do not even catch his eye. Cha Jun Sung focused only on the female celebrities. Normal people do not match up to them.

He is a person too. He cannot help but pay attention when he sees a pretty woman. There is a mix of natural and synthetic beauty.

Since Cha Jun Sung went through body modifications, he can sense even the most minute movement of his muscles. Somehow, the synthetic beauties are unnatural.

"I should go up since I've looked around enough."

Cha Jun Sung is 30 minutes early. He had wanted to get here early to look around with time. Since he saw a lot of female celebrities, he is satisfied.

He walked toward the welcome desk. Lim Si Hyun had told him that he would let the front desk know, so all he would have to do is call up. Then, he would send someone down for him.

"I'm Cha Jun Sung. I have an appointment with the master, Lim Si Hyun."

“Mr. Cha Jun Sung? Ah!”

The woman at the desk looks through the list. The first person on the list is Cha Jun Sung. It is in a clear color. He must be an important appointment.

“The master told me to escort you myself. I’ll take you up.”

“No, that’s okay.”

“Excuse me?”

“It looks like you’re busy. I’ll go by myself. Just tell me where to go.”

Truthfully, Cha Jun Sung is used to special treatment. When he travels or buys something expensive, the service is bound to follow the amount of money he pays.

However, this is burdensome. There is no such thing as a favor without reason in the world. Even when you give to a beggar on the street, it is because you feel bad for them. He will only take what he needs to.

The employee frowned and then told him where the master’s room is. It is at the very top on the 15th floor. As it is not a distance he can walk up, he took the elevator.

“Wait a second!”

Right before the door closed, he saw a delicate woman running toward the elevator through the narrowing opening. Cha Jun Sung pressed the button and opened the doors.

The woman quickly got on the elevator. She steadied her breath and looked at Cha Jun Sung and nodded to him in thanks.

Cha Jun Sung accepted the nod as an expression of gratitude. He can sense a magnetism to her. The shape that her dress takes along the line of her body is amazing.

She does not seem synthetic either. It is proof that she is a natural beauty. The woman was looking at Cha Jun Sung and thinking the same thing.

‘Where have I seen him?’

‘I’ve seen her before.’

Woong!

The elevator goes up. The woman was about to press the 15th floor when she stopped. It is already pressed. Since he cannot be an employee, he must be here to see Lim Si Hyun.

[15th floor.]

The door opens. Cha Jun Sung was about to get out when he was surprised. Lim Si Hyun was waiting for him. The front desk must have alerted him.

“Ha ha! Are you surprised? I came out because you said that you would go up by yourself.”

“I see.”

“Huh? You were in there too. Give me the report tomorrow. I have an important guest.”

Lim Si Hyun did not wait for her response and took Cha Jun Sung into the master’s room. The woman looked at his back and frowned.

Lim Si Hyun cleared his entire schedule for today saying that he has an appointment.

Is it because of the man who just followed him in? How important could he be that the reports are pushed back and his schedule has been cleared? And the weird thing is that he seems familiar.

The woman stood there for a while. If she has seen him somewhere, she will without a doubt remember him.

A decent face and tall height – they had not met for private reasons, but publicly. Excluding outsiders and thinking of the people who could satisfy those conditions from the past few months?

“Field of Meat!”

Jung Hye Ryung remembered the man who told her that he had completed a level E mission through body modifications while selling items to her.

Thanks to the useful information he gave her as an apology, Seven Stars was able to complete a 3000 point mission with minimal damage.

“Is that right? Alright.”

She called the front desk and asked for the man’s name. It is Cha Jun Sung.

She does not have the authority to gain further information. Jung Hye Ryung had turned over to the part 6 master of Seven Stars from the virtual department of Chilsung Group.

It is the chairman’s orders to learn guild management while supporting Lim Si Hyun.

“What could they be meeting about?”

Lim Si Hyun’s tone was cautious. They could not be meeting to joke around. The master had made the move instead of the vice masters.

She will remain curious until Lim Si Hyun discusses it. If it is important, he will call the vice masters. Until then, she must wait.



When they entered the master room, Han Chang Jin was already waiting for them.

As soon as he saw Cha Jun Sung, he got up from his seat. It is as difficult to meet him as it is to meet the President.

“I am Han Chang Jin.”

“I am Cha Jun Sung.”

It may have only been in the virtual version, but he had seen Lim Si Hyun several times. This is his first time meeting Han Chang Jin.

‘Is this Iron King?’

The names given to the 36 rankers comes from the abilities of their battle shoots. The basics are the same, but each has their own battle mode according to the conversions they make.

Cha Jun Sung's special skill is bringing out the power of the over booster, past its limit. It is of the most dangerous abilities in the battle shoot.

Han Chang Jin made modifications for iron defense technology, and Lim Si Hyun created a step called shadow moving.

"The atmosphere is rigid. If someone else saw us, they would think that we were brought together under bad conditions."

Lim Si Hyun is playing the mediator. As the informant who brought the two together, he is making an effort to make the flow smooth to create conversation.

Cha Jun Sung does not know exactly why he is here. If someone needs to speak first, it needs to be Han Chang Jin.

Lim Si Hyun knew what was going on, but it is not his position to say it in his stead.

"I was thinking for too long. Sorry. I'll get to the point."

Cha Jun Sung listened to Han Chang Jin's explanation. He will ask questions after. There is information on how the world is going around. The world is moving.

The explanation is long but to summarize, he is asking what he thinks of creating a government sector to take part in Life Mission together.

"Mr. Lim Si Hyun, have you made a decision?"

"I will not join, but I would like to create a cooperative relationship where we help each other when we need it. An alliance would be the correct term."

Lim Si Hyun is the master of Seven Stars. He knows the strength of a group. If he forms an alliance instead of joining, there is more to earn than lost.

"I will say no to both."

"Why?"

"I do not want to become a part of something by joining, and I do not have anything to give or take through an alliance."

An alliance is also joining in some ways. Lim Si Hyun might be used to being in groups because he leads a guild, but Cha Jun Sung felt like something was pushing him down.

With the opening of level C, he has the confidence to get over any hardship and adversity with his party members. He does not want any help that is not natural.

“There’s nothing to give and take? I see it’s the freedom that someone with a middle class cyborg has.”

Lim Si Hyun began to speak. It has been a while since the rumor spread that he owns a cyborg. The bus Lifers had spread it eagerly.

“I won’t deny it. My party members and I can get to level C on our strength alone. Joining you or becoming part of an alliance will actually just become shackles.”

# Chapter 74

Lim Si Hyun and Han Chang Jin heard the rumors through their subordinates and confirmed that it is true today. A middle class cyborg is an item that is not in level D.

“I see everyone is rejecting this.”

“Because there’s no merit.”

“Then can you just help us when there is an important mission?”

It is a request separate from joining. The large guilds are preparing to go into 10,000 point missions. This is the same for Seven Stars and the government.

These two groups will combine half of their strength to make an attempt. They decided to do this in a month. They need to reinforce power in order to do this.

“That’s...”

If they enter a 10,000 mission, they need to rot inside the mission for at least 1 or 2 weeks. Then who will handle the points that need to be gathered during that time?

“I guess the fact that you’re operating a bus means that you are in that much need for points?”

“My Hercules isn’t fine, so there are a ton of parts that I need to buy. And I am falling short on points to buy my own gear with.”

It is true. Cha Jun Sung is struggling in a drought of points. Once he buys a few more parts, it will be time to work on gathering achievement points.

“If you lend us yours, the cyborg’s, and your party’s strength, we will give you all of the points you would need to gather during that time.”

These people? Do they know how many points he earns each time he operates the bus?

“Don’t you make around 40,000 points each day? I guess you fall just short.”

His calculation is fast because he leads a large guild. If the two groups help him, he will save on a lot of the points he needs for Hercules’ parts.

“If you help us, you can get 40,000, as many mutants as you need. We will give you the same treatment and conditions that guild executives are given.”

Lim Si Hyun is saying that he will make it so that he can buy the items he needs all at one time. It is really hard to reject.

If he has 3 level D artificial intelligences and 20,000 points, he can produce level C artificial intelligence. It uses up achievements, but the important thing is completing the large parts.

“If you accept this proposal, we could purchase it for you.”

Cha Jun Sung’s eyes wavered. Do they have more points than they need? The two groups have been operating buses since the very beginning. That has been saved and saved.

Of course tens of thousands of points is burdensome to them as well, but it is an investment for the future.

“Don’t you need to experience a 10,000 point mission anyway?”

Experience? He has done it before. He has done 20,000 points! They will probably not believe him if he says that he fought with a Destroyer. It is a monster that he wants to avoid until Hercules is complete.

‘Should I do it?’

If he stays in a mission for even 1 week, he will get 560,000 points worth of parts.

And large ones at that. If he combines the points that he earns before going in, he might be able to get rid of most of Hercules’ internal defects.

‘Let’s ask.’

He will need to hear what the party members think. He cannot swallow it all by

himself. Lim Si Hyun and Han Chang Jin did not rush Cha Jun Sung, and waited for his answer.

“I will discuss it with my party members.”

“If it’s not too much to ask... can we take a look at the cyborg?”

“Sure.”

He pressed the summons button on the PDA. It is so big that it does not even fit in the space compression bag and he does not want to leave it at home, so he is keeping it in the briefing room.

Woong

Every time he summons it, a couple hundred points are deducted. He is showing it to them for free as a service. With this much, it is okay to show it off.

Hercules came out of the summons gate. Because of all the points he poured into it, the inside is a mess but its appearance is shiny.

“Wow! It’s impressive. How on earth did you get this?”

Lim Si Hyun looks on in admiration. Seven Stars went around hundreds and thousands of missions to find missions that they can use, but they had never come across a jackpot.

How many points is a middle class cyborg? It will surpass 1 million. There is more value when they have the points but cannot purchase it.

“Is level 3 the limit like in the virtual version?”

“Since it’s middle class.”

“If you just arm it, it will be able to take on level 4 mutants on its own.”

It is categorized as middle class, but it is higher. It will bring shock if he reveals it, so he will hide it.

If he accepts the proposal and goes into a 10,000 point mission, they will find that out

as well. Since he has not accepted it yet, he can think about it then.



-[I have alerted Overload. Please search mission Black Island.]

A text message came in to Lim Si Hyun. It was right before her patience was running out.

Ice Queen searched Black Island on her PDA. An open room caught her eye. If they enter that, they can meet Overload.

-[Burke.]

-[Speak.]

-[Search Black Island and apply for the party. Overload is there.]

-[Yahoo!]

Boom Busker cheers. He is just as exhausted as Ice Queen. They waited weeks to meet Cha Jun Sung. This is all because of Lim Si Hyun.

‘When I got the contact, I was with Overload. He was extremely uncomfortable when he heard that you had gotten information on him through hacking.’

Ice Queen thought that it was too late for them to join forces now. All she has to do is tell them the results back in America, but first impressions were not good.

‘I will arrange a meeting since you do not have bad intentions. Please wait.’

Lim Si Hyun said that he would create a good atmosphere for them to speak, and asked for them to wait until he got in contact. They did not want to do it, but accepted.

There was no news even as weeks passed by. In America, they were urging for news as well. They were thinking of waiting just one more day, when Lim Si Hyun called.

-[Don’t goad him. Overload does not avoid provocations.]

-[Can’t I try taking him on? There are 8 rankers he brought down. Blood King of PK

ranking is included there.]

-[Are you upset that you lost to Blood King? So much that you want to take it out on Overload?]

Boom Busker did not respond immediately. He lost to Blood King. But he wanted to go up against Overload because he had heard that he had beat Blood King.

Ice Queen closed her eyes. Boom Busker wants to beat Overload who beat Blood King to get satisfaction.

Say he wins against Overload. Does it mean anything? Everyone is just starting out by struggling and crawling through it. At this point, it is pointless to try to see who is stronger.

This is reality. They are not even in the 9th stage of body modifications and they do not have battle shoots. Their weapons are crude as well. They have not filled even 1% of their abilities in the virtual version.

-[Do you have the confidence to beat him when he finds his ability again and freely uses the over booster? Do you think it's a joke that those 8 people lost?]

There is an order to the 36 rankers. Life Mission is not a level game.

It is an advancement system unlike the reality version in various aspects. The 36 rankers are all Lifers who have passed the final promotion. The conditions are the same.

The outcome is decided on control, body modification, and subtle differences in equipment, and 8 of the 14 who came within the top 20 rankings lost to him.

There are 2 people in the top 5 as well. Of those 2, one is Blood King.

-[We came to Korea on official business for America. Forget your personal emotions, or find Blood King and take it out with him.]

-[I can't win in a verbal fight with women.]

Boom Busker threw up a white flag. He had said it half joking, but she had taken it too seriously. If he had said one more thing, it looks like they would have gotten into a

fight.

-[Odin accepted the party application. Will you enter?]

-[I will enter. Please get ready.]

-[Yes! Queen.]

Woong!

Ice Queen and Boom Busker's bodies disappeared from the hotel. When they opened their eyes again, they saw Overload leaning against a wall, waiting for them.

# Chapter 75

Cha Jun Sung thought about what had happened a few hours ago. It was when his conversation with Han Chang Jin was wrapping up. Lim Si Hyun spoke with a cautious tone.

‘They came from America. I said that I would arrange for you to meet. What do you think?’

Lim Si Hyun suggested meeting with them to tell them what he is thinking because they would go barging into Cha Jun Sung’s house if he had not offered to arrange it.

‘Deny.’

Since the party was formed and he had come into the mission, he would meet with them. It is just that he will turn down the proposal from America no matter what the conditions are. They were already off on the wrong foot in the way they had come looking for him.

He thought of Han Chang Jin’s wary face. He was apprehensive that Cha Jun Sung might go to America. That is how great the conditions would be.

Woong!

A summons gate formed in front of Cha Jun Sung. He left his thoughts.

He has seen Ice Queen before, and this is the first time he is meeting Boom Busker. He does not have an evil inclination like Blood King, but the rumors are not good.

Let’s be careful. Unpredictable people are more dangerous than the bad people. It is because you cannot predict what they are thinking.

“Overload?”

“It’s been a year, Ice Queen.”

With a tone of confirmation, Cha Jun Sung took his helmet off. His identity had been

revealed without his intention. There is not much of a difference between showing himself and hiding.

“Hey! Overload, it’s nice to meet you. I’m Burke. Boom Busker. You know who I am, right?”

“Ha?”

There are no honorifics in English. But the translator relays the message with the person’s accent, emotion, and thought process.

Ice Queen spoke respectfully to Cha Jun Sung, so it sounded like she was using honorifics, but it was not so for Boom Busker because he was talking as though Cha Jun Sung is his neighborhood friend.

It is not a good feeling. He does not like to meet people who are disrespectful.

“Don’t drop the honorifics.”

“Honorifics? Aha! Does the translator relay the message without honorifics? That’s too narrow-minded.”

Boom Busker is provoking Cha Jun Sung. To think that he would get angry over something so insignificant.

Cha Jun Sung could be reacting sensitively. He would have gone past it like nothing normally, but he could not look kindly on them because of the hacking.

“I’ll speak. I am the person in charge of this subsumption.”

“Sheesh!”

Boom Busker fell back. It is true. He had just tagged along, but Ice Queen has all of the authority.

“I’m sorry. The government did the hacking. We had nothing to do with it.”

Cha Jun Sung looked relieved. Ice Queen does not lie. She is professional and she is cold and transparent like an ice queen should be.

“Let’s just say there’s nothing we can do about what’s already happened. Is it right that you’re here for a subsumption?”

“That’s right.”

“Then I will turn you down. I will not listen to the conditions. Please go back.”

He has enough of the corporeal. The reality is a different world. He does not think that the U.S. has overwhelming influence.

The only benefits they have are things that they can give in real life.

Money and citizenship, giving him different kinds of conveniences or giving him points? It will be incomparable to Korea, but it is all useless.

Ice Queen looked at Cha Jun Sung. He did not look away. She has clear eyes that are fitting for her beauty.

“Of course.”

“Huh?”

It is unexpected. Cha Jun Sung was surprised by this woman who had given up so easily.

“If it’s a no, it’s a no. This is not an issue that will change because we make an appeal.”

If his will is set, there is no need to waste effort trying to change his mind. All she needs to do is report the results back to America. Her own duty is over.

“Are you joking? This easily? You think we came this far for this?”

Boom Busker exploded in dissatisfaction of the situation. It is either he accepts or rejects their proposal, but this is not it.

“You could become a king if you come to America. Your salary will be millions of dollars, you’ll have a mansion, and they’ll push for 500,000 points for you. What do you think? Isn’t it tempting?”

Cha Jun Sung ignored Boom Busker and was going to go outside. As long as they have

entered a mission, he might as well finish it instead of quitting.

“Stop! Ah, fine! Damn it! Since it won’t work out anyway, let’s fight!”

“Burke!”

“What good is there to fight when none of our systems are properly in place?”

Did he hear right? Cha Jun Sung spoke with his head half turned.

Boom Busker stopped. Cha Jun Sung is saying the same thing Ice Queen said. A ranker’s possibility is the know-how of building his character to the very top.

A level of fighting that is struggling in level D is just a pit.

“Get the battle shoot and come find me later. I’ll happily beat you then.”

Right now, they will throw a few hits and the person who throws one or two lucky punches will be the winner. The loser will feel empty for nothing.

“I don’t want to.”

Boom Busker took out his hand cannon and aimed it at Cha Jun Sung. It is an air cannon that explodes at once by compressing the air.

It is a strong weapon like the Wolf Kill and Head Hunter. It needs to be charged for 30 seconds every time it fires, so the rate of fire is low but its power is tremendous.

“That’s funny. So you want to force a fight on someone who doesn’t want to get involved?”

“The subsumption ended so uneventfully after waiting weeks, so don’t you think I have to get something out of it? It looks bad for me to just leave.”

“Overload, we’ll quit the mission. Burke, quit the mission.”

Ice Queen mediated. She was frowning. Boom Busker did not listen. He was fully prepared.

“Are you scared? The Overload who beat Blood King and Dark Side?”

“Why are you mentioning them? I’m annoyed enough as it is because I lost to Blood King. Stop being immature and act like an adult if you’re an adult.”

His patience is running thin. Boom Busker is clinging.

Ice Queen and Boom Busker realized that Cha Jun Sung had met Blood King in real life. Boom Busker spoke,

“You met him in a mission?”

“Overload, please understand. Busker lost to him in the virtual version.”

“Irina!”

“He’s still going around doing PKs. No. Is it murder now? I don’t care whether you lost to him or not. If you have something to work out with him, take it out on him.”

The world is big, but there are no restrictions to rumors. What happens to the 36 rankers spreads faster than the wind through Lifers.

“Where is that asshole!”

“I don’t know.”

After losing him in Field of Meat, they had not seen each other again. Cha Jun Sung was going to post him as a PK, but saw that there were thousands and left it.

Now, it is more than tens of thousands. It has been a while since murdering through PK has been a method of earning points. He is also not sure if Campbell is his real name.

“Put the cannon down.”

“Pick up your sword!”

-[Hercules, come back. An enemy emerged.]

-[Enemy emergence!]

As soon as he entered, he sent Hercules out to scope out the danger.

Cha Jun Sung's gear is far inferior to that of Boom Busker's. It is obvious that he will lose with his titanium katana against Boom Busker's air cannon.

There is no need to go back too far. Hercules is also his gear.

Hercules broke through the wall to come in. Hearing that there is an enemy, it was taking the shortest route. There was no time to even open the door.

"Ack! Is that a mutant?"

The air cannon fired a powerful air grenade. Hercules brought its arms covered in metal arm to an X in front of Cha Jun Sung to block him.

Its feet dragged backwards under the pressure, but it withstood the power.

Hercules put out its hand. Boom Busker swatted at the hand trying to grab him with his cannon, and dug in. He was going to fire one more.

However, the extended hand quickly went back into position. The muscle strength itself is different.

Hercules lifted Boom Busker by his head. If it squeezes, his head will explode like a watermelon.

"Overload!"

"Put him down. Kill him if he attacks again."

Hercules let go. Boom Busker fell on his rear.

He looked back and forth between the air cannon and cyborg in surprise. He had fired at it thinking that it is a mutant, but it is in perfect condition after being hit.

"Is this the cyborg you received in a mission? Its battle power is impressive."

Had the rumor spread to America already? Cha Jun Sung was wrong. It is possible to find out just by looking into Lifer World once in a while. People who are bound to know, will know.

# Chapter 76

“Anyway, I think I know why he lost to Blood King.”

Cha Jun Sung looked at Boom Busker. He is not just saying it. It is true.

“What?”

“You’re easy to read. I’m pretty sure you’ll lose again if you fight again. Tsk tsk!”

Cha Jun Sung clucked his tongue and left with Hercules to hunt mutants. He wants to rest here, but it seems that would be difficult.

“Do you feel refreshed after making a huge fuss?”

“...Keuk.”

Ice Queen left those words and quit the mission. Boom Busker looked at the spot Cha Jun Sung had left through and followed her.

He does not have the will to fight him when he has a monstrous cyborg.



6 Lifers form a line and attack an enormous biped mutant. They each have their roles in attacking from a short distance to a long distance.

All of the equipment used for their rightful roles were level D. Metal armor is a given, and they had weapons like vibrating blades or enhanced rifles.

“Eat this!”

A Lifer threw a grenade at the mutant.

A shot grenade and concussive shell blew up within moments of each other. The noise shook the mutant’s brain and enhanced the effect of the shock.

He seems to be knowledgeable in bombs. He is used to handling them.

Kung!

The mutant shook its head back and forth to upright its now upside down world. It was dizzy and stumbled as if it were drunk.

“It’s stuck on the stern!”

“Dual blade! Cut its achilles! Don’t fail!”

Mobility for creatures with legs begins in the lower body. For the lower body, it is the achilles. If it is disconnected, it cannot avoid limping.

Even with a level 4 mutant’s ability to heal, it will take dozens of minutes to put the achilles tendon back together. That is the chance to give it a wound that cannot regenerate quickly.

A Lifer with twin blades and a large sword went behind the stumbling mutant and took each of its legs. He is going to cut them both at the same time.

With a sound like a swarm of bees flying away, the mutant’s ankles split open. Red blood splattered out and the mutant fell to the ground.

He pulled the twin blades and sword back, shaking the blood off of them. The blood that had stained them shakes off cleanly. It shines like it is new.

“Lunginoose!”

“I know!”

A Lifer who had been standing in front of the mutant put all of his strength into his body and stabbed with the spear in his hand. It is just called a spear, but it is more like a javelin.

The spear penetrated the mutant’s chest and came out through the back. It had not been done with pure strength. The spear is a vibrating weapon.

Blood pours out from its mouth and chest. Its lungs must have been damaged because there are bubbles forming.

The mutant swung its arms around in its sitting state so that no one could come close.

It looks ridiculous, but their bones will be shattered if they get hit and they will die if they are caught. They cannot relax until it stops breathing.

“Glare Fire! Nuclear!”

“Watch out!”

4 people leave their positions. The 2 who had been appointed use their firepower. Glare Fire used his hand cannon and Nuclear threw all types of bombs.

The mutant’s roar of anger became a cry. It felt that it was dying and its behavior became passive.

They are Lifers who can each take on a level 3 mutant. Combining the 6 of them brought an inexpressible synergy.

The mutant could not withstand the constant attacks and stopped breathing.

-[You have earned 12,000 points.]

“Hah! That’s me!”

“Ow!”

Nuclear held up both his arms and yelled. He drew in more as a strong terrorist with offensive power. Glare Fire shifted his feet in regret.

He was 2nd in offensive power. Lifers analyzing the offense group gave up early on. That makes it more comfortable.

“It’s tiring.”

Tenshao put his sword back as he looked over the dead mutant.

It is a great evil level 4. It is overly strong. Its disadvantage is its slow speed, so it is easier to catch among the level 4 mutants as long as they avoid getting hit.

“So it’s possible for us to complete the early 10,000 point missions. I think we’ll be

able to handle 20,000 if we fill the remaining 4 and create a full party. What do you think, strategist?"

Sonic Boom Kevin Cruise asked strategist Oliver Dan his opinion. Everyone looked at him. They will know if it is possible or not once he speaks.

"We can't do it."

The strategist showed a negative response. 20,000 points? He is completely against it.

"We succeeded against the evil with our skills and teamwork, but there's no guarantee that the same will work when the points are higher."

"Even if we add members?"

"There are clear limits because quantity doesn't mean quality."

The strategist's explanation is simple, but it was enough to make them understand.

He is one of the weakest rankers in battle, but he shows leadership because his intelligence allows him to come up with great strategies.

Quick judgment and understanding the flow of events are his weapons.

"Let's not dwell on things that can't be. That's that, but what did they say in Korea?"

"Failure."

They were contacted not too long ago. They failed in subsuming Ghost Gun and Overload.

From the strategist's point of view, Han Chang Jin's subsumption is not necessary.

It would be good if he changed his nationality but even without that, they have a relationship where they help each other. There is no reason to become involved in bad relationships.

"Overload... What a pity."

"Tenshao showed a reaction!"

Nuclear showed surprise and pointed to him. Lotus Blade usually does not show interest in others.

“It must be consciousness of a rival. If it weren’t for Overload, he would have been the best with a sword.”

Lotus Blade shrugged at Sonic Boom. He has a serious and heavy personality, so he does not react much even when he is being teased.

It is also true. He has fought with Overload before, but he lost with a small difference. That was the result whether it was a difference in their control or weapon.

“How about other countries?”

“A few said they’ll come to America, but don’t you think we’re bothering them too much? Even if it’s a federation, doesn’t it mean we’re just trying to take all of the power?”

There are 7 rankers from America. If they succeed in subsuming, they will extend close to 10 people. Of course a few will act on their own or are disruptive.

“So it’s Glare Fire.”

“It’s Glare Fire.”

World federations and outsiders, private sectors that are neither. Large guilds are included in private sectors because they are private organizations.

The term outsiders refer to those who are active on their own.

“Dark Side was in contact with Hell Sword.”

“Is that for real?”

The strategist spoke in disbelief at Glare Fire’s bomb.

There are people with evil inclinations among the 36 rankers and they include Blood King, Hell Sword, Dark Side, and Tyrant.

The frustrating part is that they are skilled among the top rankers.

“It happened not too long ago. I ran into Bloodshot by chance in a mission.”

“Ugh! He willingly told you?”

“I told him a few things too. I need to give as much as I take.”

They do not know why, but the evil users gathered together to meet. Glare Fire had to hand over information on the world federation in order to hear that.

If they really take it into consideration, they have neither earned nor lost anything from it. It just resolved a curiosity.

“It’s suspicious.”

“It seemed like they were aiming to create a guild. A worldwide PK guild will appear.”

People who cannot be underestimated have gotten together. PK Lifers are increasing by the day. Lifers stay alert in order to combat them.

As their luck is running out and the radius within which they can act is narrowing, they will need to find a shield. They have no choice but to unite.

They may not reach the status of a world foundation, but they will easily surpass the combination of several large guilds. PK Lifers are more outstanding than normal Lifers.

Think about it. While fighting mutants and a wide variety of people, they naturally became resourceful and are unmatched.

“What a pain. First, the 6 people here, Ice Queen, Boom Busker, Iron King, and with a few people who will join soon, we have around 15 people on our side?”

If there are 15 of 36 rankers, they reach over 40%. If they think of the people in private sectors who do not form partnerships or distractions, it is more.

Compared to the evil Lifers, they are the dominant power.

But as things go, it is more difficult to settle matters than it is to create them. If they are to set up barriers, it will be a serious face off.

“It’s complicated.”

“The government will create the strategy, and we just have to move as we’re told to.”

It is a response worthy of a strategist. They are refraining from personal actions. That does not mean that they will act as puppets though.

They are distinct people and are in partnership with the government.

“Let’s go back.”

“I’m hungry.”

Woong!

6 Lifers return. At the same time that Cha Jun Sung was gathering experience and points, they were also looking to the top.

# Chapter 77

It is a static space. 3 Lifers are waiting in a comfortable spot for the time they had promised to meet. It is not long now.

No one spoke first. They will bring it up once everyone has gathered.

Woong!

A summons gate appears with a resonance. A Lifer in black and a Lifer wearing a red sword appeared.

“You’re here. Dark Side, Hell Sword.”

Bloodshot welcomes them. They are on time.

“How about Tyrant?”

“He said he’s busy. 5 people are it.”

Death Spear responded to Dark Side’s question on Tyrant’s behalf.

“It’s not bad for a first start.”

Blood King is the one who had gathered them all together. Since those that are alike play together, these 6 people helped each other even in the virtual version.

They spent their time with PK. And they are doing the same thing in reality. What could they do? Hunting people is more fun than hunting mutants.

“Bloodshot, you said you met Glare Fire?”

“I told him a few things to get information on the world federation. It’s just what it sounds like. I didn’t get much out of him, so I just grazed the surface.”

Blood King and Dark Side, Hell Sword and Death Spear, Bloodshot and Tyrant who is not there, they fall short as a power compared to the world federation.

However, it is bigger and stronger than any large guild. They have already gathered guild members over the past few months. All they have to do now is to get together.

If it all works out well, they will reach over hundreds of thousands. Like Blood King said, it was not bad for a start. They can build up their influence with time.

“If the individual is going to fight with the group, all that’s left is skill.”

“I’m sick of the little guys. I want to hunt those guys as soon as possible.”

By those guys, he meant the other 36 rankers. There is nothing better than killing someone similar to experience bliss. There is as much joy as there is risk.

They are confident that they would not lose against most of them in a one-on-one fight.

“The world federation will have gotten past 10,000 point missions. Let’s slowly get to it as well.”

“That’s why we got together.”

The 5 people got together to discuss certain issues, but they also mean to get over the 10,000 wall. It is enough even if Tyrant is absent.

“They slowly started to move.”

“Who?”

“Overload, Weapon Master, Nine Tails, Empress Light.”

“I saw that Overload was operating a bus. Ha ha ha! Does he not have enough points?”

“He got a middle class cyborg. If we only look at the gear, it’ll be top class.”

4 people spoke while Blood King watched and waited for them to stop. Bloodshot must have been bored because he cut them off.

“Are you watching?”

“Keep talking.”

“You met with Overload. You have to tell us what happened. Did you lose to him again?”

When Bloodshot held his stomach and laughed, Blood King’s eyes slanted into a glare. He looked like his glare could kill, but Bloodshot did not back down.

“It’s true. You’re going to fight me too?”

“No. I’m thinking if I should kill you. But I’ll hold back. I’m against splitting.”

Bloodshot smiled when Blood King spoke. He does not fall behind in murder or PK. He wants to reestablish an order.

“Stop.”

Death Spear was watching them when he stopped them. They did not meet to do this.

“The atmosphere is overheating for no reason. If you have the strength to fight each other, we should go ahead and complete a mission. Since we have a grasp of each guild’s system, let’s stop and go.”

Hell Sword stood up. Everyone seems to be antsy. It is a waste to fight amongst themselves. They will just have to spend their efforts on killing mutants.

Blood King and Bloodshot stopped facing off and left.



-[Congratulations. You have cleared the ruins collapsed in a level D mission.]

Cha Jun Sung was lying on his back among the rubble. He is exhausted and without strength.

A few meters away, there are 3 monsters resembling moles that are dead and ripped into pieces. Hercules was also sitting against a wall.

“We broke it.”

He completed a 7000 point mission solo. 5 level 3 mutants came out, but he and Hercules took them all without anyone’s help.

How could this be possible? The answer is time. 2 months had passed since he met with Lim Si Hyun and Han Chang Jin. He evolved to develop.

Points are important, but his experience is in a halfway state. Rather than wasting time here and there, he decided to focus on one thing.

Lim Si Hyun thought it a pity that he had rejected, but respected his decision and did not push it further. Instead, Cha Jun Sung promised to help with the advance mission.

He needs to complete the advance mission even if it is for the Koharu sisters. It will be much easier if Seven Stars and the government combine their strength.

They had to sacrifice dozens of people, but it meant completing 10,000 points. They intend to rest for a few months and then make an attempt at an advance mission.

Cha Jun Sung brushed off the dust covered his body and went to Hercules. It is still leaning against the wall and does not stir. The aftermath of the battle must be severe.

“Get up.”

“54.3% of parts damaged. Of these, 39.5% is focused on the lower body. Self repairing! In 5 minutes, 12% will be repaired and movement will be possible.”

Hercules is reporting its own damage situation. It is lacking a lot of things, but it achieved the intellect of a higher cyborg because of a C class artificial intelligence function.

Outside of that, it was given basic arms and a D class energy core, restoring the Wolf Kill to Cha Jun Sung.

How many points had he used? 2 million? Regardless, he had invested a tremendous amount.

If he can just replace Hercules' D class energy core with one that is C class, it will be completely worth its 5 million points. He is excluding arms because they are additional options.

Cha Jun Sung cleared away the wreckage that was pressing Hercules down. He is lifting rocks that weigh over hundreds of kgs with ease. It is the muscular strength of the 3rd stage of body modifications.

He cannot invest all of his points solely on Hercules. He as the Lifer needs to become the subject of the missions. He stopped at a reasonable level.

“1.2 million for the 4th stage, 2 million for a C class energy core. That’s 3.2 million combined.”

That consumes 640,000 achievement points. Calculating it, it will take a little less than 3 months. When that time comes, it will be much easier to purchase the battle shoot.

He is the one who had made Hercules perfect and gone through the 4th stage of body modifications. A 20,000 point mission gives around 40 to 450,000? He can put his focus there.

Around then, Lim Si Hyun will be in contact regarding the advance mission.

“You made the moles into rags. Hey, 5 minutes are up.”

They ripped at its metal armor and shell. Since its defense crumbled, it had been inevitable that it was attacked.

Its synthetic skin is hanging off of it. Hercules’ mechanical legs are visible. If it had been human, it was so severely damaged that its limbs would have had to be amputated.

Parts were repaired through medical treatment within minutes. An advanced cyborg starts to store a small medical robot and auxiliary parts in its body.

Since this could present a shortcoming by itself, Cha Jun Sung also kept a few things in his space compression bag. If he buys something, there is always somewhere to use it. He never buys anything unless there is a purpose for it.

“Repair complete.”

Hercules used its arm as a support to stand up. Its walking is somewhat unstable. The mutants they fought this time played cheap.

They were weak for level 3, but they only attacked from underground without showing themselves. They were limited in ways to attack the mutants, so it took a lot of effort to kill them.

They need to be visible to attack, but the mutants would hide for a while if they felt the situation was not beneficial to them. Guns are of no use, and bombs did not work either.

If Hercules had not acted as bait, they would have run away.

“Let’s go get the parts.”

“Confirmed!”

On their way here, he had discovered a couple computer shops and car centers. He stopped in a few of them, and there were quite a lot of useful parts.

A special mission to take everything appeared as it had at the Biology Institute, but he had left it. The mission does not go away. There is plenty of time to complete the mission and go back.

Cha Jun Sung upgraded his space compression bag one step. It had been the size of a small pond until yesterday, but it was now like the bathroom of a normal family home.

-[You worked hard!]

-[Thank you!]

-[I will return now!]

The bus riders in his force went back. He is operating his bus right now. The day that all of Hercules’ flaws are gone is when the operation will be shut down.

“Let’s put these in.”

He wants to take everything, but it is multiple times the space compression bag’s allowance. He will put in as much as he can fit. Calculating by points, it will come out to about 2000.

Whenever these special missions occurred, Cha Jun Sung went back and took the bonus without hesitation. Even this turns out to be rewarding if he keeps at it.

“Even if I gather millions of points, I use all of them.”

His points do not last when he buys this and that. Because of his continued efforts, the end was near. All he has to do is get over a few more mountains.

# Chapter 78

-[Ha ha! Today, I completed the 4th stage of body modifications and purchased the level D set!]

For the first time in a while, the PDA was full of buzz. The party members have gathered to discuss. They had developed just as Cha Jun Sung had.

Park Jin Hyuk does not have a cyborg. He invested his points in body modification and D class items. No matter how he looks at it, C class items are a long-distance haul.

There is a limit to trying to withstand it with E class. It becomes destroyed just by touching a level 3 mutant.

If he skimps on points, he will die. He used 500,000 points to get metal armor and to enhance his existing equipment.

Currently, Park Jin Hyuk is going in and out of 5000 point missions as if he were at home. Enhancing his physical ability by 16 times made him a superhuman.

He is superior to Cha Jun Sung in terms of physical ability and gear.

-[How far did you extend the lifespan?]

-[By 18 years. The fire will burn if we keep going like this. It's already been extended by 26 years.]

From the 3rd stage of body modifications, it is more than a mere force of strength. It is optimal when the lifespan is extended and the appearance is the most voracious.

Cha Jun Sung does not see a big change because he is 31 years old, but Park Jin Hyuk is different.

He quickly changed to the appearance of someone in his mid 20s while going through the 3rd stage of body modifications. He grew almost 10cm and along with that, his weight and body grew as well.

When Lifers open the level C store and go through body modification, there will be as much buzz as there was when the reality version first started.

An old man waiting to die could go back to being in his 20s.

It is different from catching a disease. Even if they can treat a disease with medicine from the store, they cannot find their youth again. It is not a value that can be compared.

This is the true devil's temptation. There is the condition that they must open level C, but it is worth risking their lives. If they succeed, they will live a new life.

The helpers say that it is different by stage, but the 3rd and 4th stages increase the lifespan by 10 to 20 years. Cha Jun Sung also went 9 years.

-[I grew a little taller too.]

-[... That's similar to me.]

Cha Jun Sung felt sad. His small and cute friend had become big and gross.

As the Life Mission ranking went up, surreal events happened as if they were nothing. What would they be surprised with beyond level B?

-[We didn't have anything to get in level D, so we each saved up more than 1 million.]

Koharu and Kyoko stay in level D. Since they cannot go through body modification, they just purchased gear, saved points, and went over 1 million.

-[Leave it for level C. As soon as we go up, there will be a drought of points.]

They will get stuck at the normal points if they do not have achievement points, but it is better than not having them. It is wise to save them up as much as they can.

Koharu bought twin daggers with vibration, and Kyoko bought intermediate trauma medical devices. They also had metal armor as their basic protection.

-[Good.]

Cha Jun Sung was certain that the party members were ready. At this rate, the 5 of

them including Hercules could take on 10,000 point missions.

-[Let's go to a sample takeover.]

-[Yes!]

Park Jin Hyuk yelled into the PDA. The time had come to proceed with the sample takeover in the Biology Institute, which they had been pushing off because Cha Jun Sung was so busy.

-[Is the sample takeover you're talking about the 12,000 point mission you did with Hocheon?]

Koharu learned about a lot while being in a party with Park Jin Hyuk. Of that, she knew that there was a sample takeover as a linked mission in the Biology Institute.

-[There is a high possibility that mission will be over in one shot like Slayer's Prison. It'll be dangerous, but it is perfect to test the party's power.]

-[With our current state, we would be able to take on 2 level 4 mutants, so we can do a sample takeover.]

Cha Jun Sung agreed with that. Judging by the points, he could expect 2 weak ones or 1 strong one. If the proceedings are simple, it will be the latter.

-[There's no reason something like the Destroyer will come out, so if we just stay vigilant we should be fine!]

Even if a mutant at that level appears, they could take it with a concentrated attack.

-[Did you figure out what it is inside?]

-[I have guesses, but I can't point out exactly what it is.]

-[Which one is the most likely?]

-[Saman Viper.]

-[A snake? Ack!]

It is not a desirable animal. It is bad to have prejudices against animals, but most people do not like snakes. Cha Jun Sung's group is the same.

As soon as Park Jin Hyuk showed revulsion, Koharu and Kyoko also expressed their disgust. They do not like normal snakes, but it is a snake that has changed into a mutant. They cannot know until they have seen it.

-[When do we go?]

-[When do you think will be good?]

-[Since we're on the topic, should we go in tomorrow? No one has gear to get or anything.]

They have been ready. They just need to fill up their necessities and go up against them.

-[I don't care.]

The sisters are also in agreement. If they want to strategize, they can do it after entering the mission as well.

He said that an iron door was blocking the way and the mutant was trapped inside. If they start to hesitate, there will be no end. They need to push forward.

-[We're going tomorrow at noon! Sleep well and let's meet refreshed.]

Resting is as important as battling. They need to soothe their minds and bodies for tomorrow.



Chun Myung Ik and the guild members ran without looking back. After completing the Biology Institute, they thought about it for a few months and attempted the sample takeover after finishing all preparations.

Seven Stars is playing in the mid to high 10,000 area. Other large guilds passed the early 10,000 missions a while ago. Hocheon is in the lower ranks of the large guilds.

As late as they are to entering level D, it is not easy to catch up. They normally would have gone up from 10,000, but they skipped 2000 because they were feeling so

rushed.

That was a big mistake. Of 100 guild members, around 70 died. There are 12 members following him. The other 17? They are missing.

They had become like this within days of opening the iron door and entering. This is all because of that level 4 mutant.

-[We'll go back to the original summons area and quit the mission!]

-[What about the rest of the guild members?]

-[You're saying you want to stay here?]

Oh Min Ho wiped his forehead with the back of his hand at Chun Myung Ik's words. He is sweating profusely. He did not think it through. If they stay, they will die. They need to survive in order to plan for the future.

The summons area is getting closer. If they pull down the lever once they get there, the door will close. Then they can return. They cannot quit right now because they are being chased.

Kyak!

-[Block it so we can close the door!]

None of the guild members listened to the order. Block it? This is the same as saying, 'You need to die for me to live. So go die.'

Kyak!

That mutant senses people's temperature, so there is no point in using the odorless spray.

It can find them even if they hide. They will be caught in this state where they are sweating and their body temperatures have gone up. They need to go somewhere where it cannot enter.

Chun Myung Ik exchanged looks with the guild cadres. They need to buy time.

Tatang!

A few cadres shot the general guild members that were following behind them. They did not kill, but injured them. As they would not block the mutant, they are being forced to stay behind.

Ack!

Flesh and bones are being chewed. The sound itself is torture enough to drive them crazy. Chun Myung Ik ran to the door with the sole thought of living and pulled the lever down.

Bang!

Bang bang!

The mutant is banging on the door. It is angry that it lost them and will not stop.

“We are quitting.”

“Quit!”

Chun Myung Ik and his cadres rushed to quit, but it did not go as they planned.

-[The angry Black Horn is looking for a different way to get past the door. You cannot quit the mission until it stops trying.]

It is despair.

# Chapter 79

Woong!

The gate spits Cha Jun Sung's group out. They are relaxed. It is a confidence that comes from talent. They are one of the top powers of the existing parties.

"Is it a room?"

"I thought we'd be starting in front of that door again, but I guess not."

Park Jin Hyuk is right. Normally, they should have appeared in front of the door. That is what would have happened if Chun Myung Ik's group had not created chaos in the mission.

Cha Jun Sung's group was summoned to a small room. A bunk bed, table, desk, and cabinets – it is a small space where 2 people can live.

"Jin Hyuk..."

"He he. It's changed a lot, right? I was really surprised when I first looked in a mirror too."

Park Jin Hyuk scratched his head in embarrassment. He has not just changed. Cha Jun Sung had seen him once after the 3rd stage of modifications, but he is unrecognizable now.

His image as an adolescent is gone. He has the charm of a man.

He is chiseled enough for people to think that he is Cha Jun Sung's friend. Koharu and Kyoko were already accustomed to the change in Park Jin Hyuk.

-[Level D Mission: Bio Sample Takeover]

-[Goal: Attainment]

-[Description: Empire Biology Institute's linked mission. Get inside the sample storage

room that is full of darkness and anger, and take the bio samples.]

-[Reward: 12,000 points. Lucky box.]

Cha Jun Sung read the mission description. The keyword is 'full of darkness and anger'. It means the level 4. There is nothing out of the ordinary.

"Hercules, go."

"Mission confirmed!"

Hercules ripped the iron door open. Hercules was going to open the door gently, but it was rigid after being unused for so long.

Hercules took the head with Cha Jun Sung and the sisters in the center, and Park Jin Hyuk taking the rear. It is the optimal formation in case of a surprise attack from the level 4.

"It doesn't look like the beginning or middle. The configuration is different."

Park Jin Hyuk spoke. It helps to get their grounds because it is an area they have been to. They cannot be sure, but they seem to have been summoned to an untargeted area.

"We'll have to go out to a wider space."

"What are you going to do about mutants? Ignore? Don't you think we need to kill them?"

They chose to annihilate the mutants. If they find the path and get the samples, it is over.

Cha Jun Sung is thinking that they need to catch the mutants. That would give him peace of mind. If it was a place that they could escape easily, it would not be worth 12,000 points.

After completing various types of missions, he can expect the obvious situations. It is likely that the mutants' habitat is nearby. They could run into trouble while trying to avoid it.

It is not conceit. It would be better if they do not have a run-in, but what if they cannot

avoid it?

Rather than suffering a surprise attack, it is wise of them to create a situation that is advantageous to them and wait. It is a method that Lifers actually use often.

“It’s okay if there is just 1, but it’s dangerous if 2 come out with the underlings.”

It is naive to think that the point value decides the mutants’ strength and numbers. Even if it is based on difficulty, it is not an absolute.

Here, the entire process is included. The difficulty could be evenly divided as 12,000, or concentrated in one place as 12,000.

Slayer’s Prison is a mutation. The male made the mission a mess.

He had been lucky, and it cannot be said that Cha Jun Sung completed the mission under normal conditions. If it had not been for Hercules, they would have been wiped out.

“A Destroyer is too much, but I can take on most mutants by myself.”

“Did you?”

“I went into 10,000 point missions with Koharu and Kyoko a few times. There was one that gave 12,000 points, but it died when I got the shot to his head with the rifle.”

Park Jin Hyuk and the sisters had secretly gone past the boundary. Would they have done it blindly? There was a reason for it.

“Jun Sung, you’ve never seen Jin Hyuk fight before, right?”

“No.”

Kyoko calls his name in a friendly manner. At some point, it had become easy to address him.

Cha Jun Sung had been so busy operating the bus that he had not been able to go into a proper mission with his party members. They only warmed up a bit occasionally.

“He only shoots his gun when you’re here because he doesn’t need to get involved, but

he swept the mutants when it was just us. He's not the little kid he was a few months ago."

Park Jin Hyuk yelled 'Kyoko, what do you mean a little kid!' and she stuck her tongue out at him. There is no hesitation in their actions. Their relationship has become that close.

Cha Jun Sung asked Koharu if what Kyoko was saying is true.

"You'll be surprised when you see for yourself. Don't think of him just as a sniper now."

Even Koharu is praising Park Jin Hyuk's ability to battle. He is curious. What had been happening while they were apart? What is he fighting like?

"Heat detected 62m in front! Command access if you would like confirmation!"

Cha Jun Sung came back to reality. Hercules must have discovered suspicious matter and is waiting for his permission. It is like a moving sensor.

"Go armed."

Zing!

Hercules strengthened its shell and used the metal armor. It turned its left hand into a vibrating weapon and left the right for analysis purposes.

Cha Jun Sung waited slowly. There is no rush. If the silence is maintained, it means that Hercules did not detect a mutant on its sensor.

-[Analysis complete! 100% probability that it is human! Estimated time of falling is 10 minutes ago!]

10 minutes means that it was right before Cha Jun Sung's group entered. They must have left it as Cha Jun Sung and his group entered.

Cha Jun Sung went where his party and Hercules were. There were no danger signals and he did not catch mutants with his superhuman senses.

"It's hard. A few minutes later and it wouldn't have been detected with heat sensors."

They had been able to discover it because it still had a weak heat. If it had been a little late, they might have just passed by it because it would have become completely cold and hard.

“It’s weak, but the wind is blowing the other way. That must be why we didn’t sense it.”

Cha Jun Sung and Park Jin Hyuk’s senses should have been able to pick up the smell of blood 62m away. The smell grew farther from them because the wind blew it in the opposite direction.

“It’s going somewhere.”

Cha Jun Sung traced the blood. It is not pooled, but continuing somewhere. If they follow it, they would be able to find the wounded or dead.

“Someone entered.”

“And they must have failed.”

A re-entry had occurred. If they had completed it, the mission would have disappeared.

“Could it be Hocheon?”

“They would have come around now, but it’s weird if 100 people came and were exterminated. Is it that strong? Or... it could be a unique species.”

Cha Jun Sung glances around the area. It is dark. It does seem like the helpers increased the power, but it is so dark that it is difficult to get visibility.

“I guess it uses its head.”

“Bingo.”

Koharu gave her opinion. She gets a vague idea of the mutant.

As it is a familiar environment, it is perfect if hunting under protection.

“You said that something that uses its smarts is weak so it’ll be easier to take on than something that has bodily strength.”

“Should I say that’s a decompensation? Even if it’s intellectual, it’s a level 4. It needs to fit some kind of standards to be assigned that title. If there is a big difference, it becomes more particular.”

It is easier for Cha Jun Sung and Park Jin Hyuk to take on a mutant that uses its head to hide itself rather than something that uses bodily strength. It is still weak.

However, it is the worst case scenario if anything appears in front of a normal Lifer. The mutant uses its intellect? Even if they know its attack, they do not have the potential to follow through.

“Let’s follow the blood.”

“Okay.”

They need to find the path that goes to the sample lab. They would rather not just walk around blindly. They need to look into the issue regarding the blood first.

# Chapter 80

Cha Jun Sung nudged the gun with his foot. Blood is sticky on it.

Leftovers from eating. There are traces of Lifers everywhere. They saw a lot of blood on their way here, but this is where they started to see bones and flesh.

“It’s the iron door.”

“That’s the door we saw last time, right?”

“I think so.”

Cha Jun Sung touched the door. He could feel where it was dented everywhere.

They were not created by firearms. It had been pounded on with a massive body. It seems to be incredible strong and would withstand a bomb going off.

He tried knocking. The door shook a little because of his muscular strength. The repulsive force is tremendous. He can say it for sure. It is impossible to break down with strength alone.

“Lifers would have tried to go out through this door because it was safe.”

“So the first summons area is outside?”

“Probably.”

When they completed the Biology Institute, the mutant was blocked by the iron door. If they had returned outside that, they would have opened this to enter.

“Jun Sung if you’re right, the outside is safe and the inside is dangerous. So why have we been summoned to where it is dangerous? There’s no reason our helpers would go crazy.”

“Why do you think it is. The outside must have become dangerous because the Lifers made a fuss.”

They do not know how but there is no doubt that the mutant got outside.

The force must have gotten to its habitat and caused severe trouble. What if it had chased them out of anger and the summons area had changed?

The helpers had decided on the inside as the summons area because it had become safe! Cha Jun Sung thought about the mission to 'get through the darkness and anger' again.

"Let's just do the mission. We came around for no reason."

They cannot go out and there is no reason to go out. They had followed the blood thinking that it would lead them to the sample lab, but it had taken them farther away.

Tak.

"Huh?"

"You heard something outside, right?"

Cha Jun Sung's group stopped walking. They heard a sound coming from the iron door. There is no way they could have heard it wrong. All 4 of them heard it. It was the sound of a hand hitting the door.

"Hercules, can you scan it?"

"Scanning iron door... I cannot perform the command! The thickness is greater than the sight allows!"

He had a feeling it would not work, but he had ordered it anyway.

"Who is it?"

"Are you a survivor?"

Someone is calling out to Cha Jun Sung's group. The translator is not changing what they are saying. It is Korean. The possibility that it is Hoccheon grew higher.

"Say where you are from."

“What is he saying.”

Park Jin Hyuk was taken aback. From? What does he mean where are they from? Is he thinking that they are force members?

“This mission opened because it was considered a fail. What guild are you from?”

“Fail... Right. We failed it.”

“I asked what guild you’re from.”

When the man spoke gibberish instead of responding, Park Jin Hyuk repeated his question.

“I am Chun Myung Ik of Hocheon. And what about you? Seven Stars? Enemy Dragon? Goblin?”

He is listing the large guilds in Korea. This is what Chun Myung Ik is hoping for. He needs a strong force.

“Private sector.”

“He he he! You’re crazy. You came here on your own! Are you a force? What about your members?”

“4 people, no 5?”

“Ha ha ha ha!”

He is not laughing because it is funny. He is resigned in disbelief. Right now, Hocheon will be recruiting members in order to enter the mission.

Entry into the mission has been blocked because Cha Jun Sung’s group came in. To think that the rescuers they had been waiting for are just 5 people – half of a party.

“Open the door for us.”

“No. If we open the door, that monster will get out. I’m sure it’s in the vicinity.”

Chun Myung Ik thought that they were alive as part of its tricks. It is leaving them alive

to get all of them at the same time once the door is open.

“You abandoned your guild members and closed the door, right?”

Chun Myung Ik shook. He could not deny it right away.

“I just said it to see, but I guess I was right. Asshole!”

Park Jin Hyuk is cursing at Chun Myung Ik. He did not like him to be with, so he might as well swear all he wants now. Cha Jun Sung and the Koharu sisters did not stop him either.

“You’re not going to open it?”

“Why should I?”

“You’re dumb, right? Our summons area was inside. If the mutant is here, would the helpers have summoned us here? They did it because it’s not inside.”

Chun Myung Ik did not understand what Park Jin Hyuk was saying for a moment. But he quickly understood. With his head? No, it was with his body. It was not by will but compulsory.



Wind leaks out. Shivers run down their spines. Their backs become wet with sweat. How are they hearing it so close? Shouldn’t they be hearing it from the other side of the door?

A different voice sounds from the inability to protest.

Chun Myung Ik’s eyes roll around. The other 8 guild members also show anxiety and look around their surroundings. It looks like closing the door had only been a makeshift barrier.

When they first discovered that it is a Black Ghost, a few of the guild members had been confident that they had a strategy with which to take it on. They said that because it is specialized in darkness, it will be averse to light.

They had thrown a photothermal bomb because they figured light would excite it and

make it come at them.

It is correct that they do not like the light. It is also correct that it will excite them. They were wrong that it would come at them. Black Ghosts quickly hide their bodies when they are exposed to light.

Then it appeared when the photothermal bomb's effect disappeared. They repeated throwing the bomb and having it disappear to reappear a few times. The amount of bombs they had kept decreasing.

They need to throw 5 or 6 to light up the entire space. There are so many places to hide, so it just kept retreating where it needed to wherever the light struck.

Photothermal bombs are a necessity, but they do not pack as many of them as they do bombs. When they finally realized that they were down by a lot, they were almost all out.

That is when it started to make the sound of wind seeping out and attacked. It covers a few bullets with a sturdy coat. Even if it penetrated, it got caught in the muscle and could not use its strength.

There are missions where attacks from the virtual work and there are missions where it does not. Chun Myung Ik had been unlucky and got caught with the latter. It is a dire error.

Again. The Black Ghost they had encountered until now attacked as soon as it let out the sound of wind.

It is a signal to let them know its location. But it made the sound twice and did not attack. They need to find it before it attacks.

The raid leader wiped his helmet when it felt like something was bothering it. There is yellow and sticky mucus on it. He instinctively turned his head and looked up.

A dark and red space swallowed him. There is a fishy smell and his hip hurt. He is sleepy. He cannot sleep... But he is so sleepy.

The Black Ghost's mouth rips the raid leaders upper body. The lower body flails and pours blood. His body has been cut in half.

It is a snake but does not swallow its meat and chews it like a carnivore. Its saw like teeth made Chun Myung Ik feel faint.

Die!

Pew pew pew pew!

The Black Ghost shakes its head. It is hanging by its tail and is moving freely in the air. The only thing is that it cannot move beyond a certain distance.

“Over there!”

“Ack!”

A raid leader pointed somewhere. It is a ventilator that is full of the Black Ghost.

60% of its body had already come out. The rest is a matter of time.

It is not a width that the Black Ghost could fit its body through, but the snake's physical characteristics and its determination to get out was making the impossible possible.

The Black Ghost had made noise because it had contracted its body as much as it could in order to get through the vent, and had finally released its breath once its head came out.

Bang bang!

The raid leaders threw bombs even though Chun Myung Ik had not ordered them to. However, the Black Ghost is hanging so high that they cannot reach it.

The explosives were not delivered properly. And while it moved around to avoid the bullets, the rest of its 40% slipped out.

Bang!

The Black Ghost brought its massive weight onto the ground. Its length reaches over 15m. It is so thick that 2 adults would be able to wrap their arms around it.

Scales that look as hard as turtle shells cover its entire body. There are horns on its forehead, and they are larger than a human's legs.

The worst is its head. It did not have a snake head, but looked like the head of a carnivorous dinosaur was taken off and put on it. It is a mutant that evolved from a snake.

# Chapter 81

As soon as the Black Ghost came down, it hid. Guns do not have much effect but bombs are dangerous, so it is avoiding a face on battle.

“Ah!”

“Keuk!”

Chun Myung Ik and the raid leaders are shaking in fear. It is 15m long but it has an elasticity that makes it 50% longer when it is attacking.

With the width of this room, most of them are within range. Once it propels its body, they would not be able to detect how quickly it protracting and retracting even with their modified bodies.

It also avoids detection with their sensors because it can control its body temperature. It has all of the conditions necessary for assassination.

Chun Myung Ik slipped back without anyone knowing. He must not provoke the Black Ghost.

He moved toward the lever. Even if they are put in a more dangerous situation, that is something to think about later. If they die now, there is no later.

Chun Myung Ik pulled down the lever he had put up. When the door went up, he saw Cha Jun Sung's group standing there with blank looks.

“What is this asshole doing? He wouldn't open the door when we asked him to.”

Park Jin Hyuk went outside and put his face in front of Chun Myung Ik's. Behind him, Park Jin Hyuk saw a mutant resembling a snake and 7 guild members.

Nearly half of the Black Ghost was covered in darkness. It is blurry.

“There are only the master, vice master, and raid leaders. What about the regular guild members?”

He is not asking because he does not know. The superior members sacrificed the lower ones so that they could live. It is sickening. He wanted to kill them.

“Huh?”

Chun Myung Ik ignored Park Jin Hyuk and pulled the lever down again and went inside. The door that had gone up about 2m was coming down. It will close in 10 seconds.

Park Jin Hyuk let go of the lever in the middle. The door is open without going up or down. Chun Myung Ik is glaring as if he wants to kill him. Should he dig out his eyes?

“Hurry up and put it down! We’ll die!”

“Let’s get it.”

Cha Jun Sung was watching them and took opposite actions to Chun Myung Ik’s. Even if they get away from it now, they will be tracked. It is better to end it here.

“What about this asshole?”

“Catch him.”

Cha Jun Sung is just as disgusted by Chun Myung Ik as Park Jin Hyuk is. Because he abandoned his guild members?

That is a part of it, but he opened the door without hesitation upon danger when he had not opened it when they asked him to. He cannot just let that go.

“Number 617 Cha Jun Sung?”

Chun Myung Ik recognizes his face. Did he make an impression when he killed the Spectre?

“Hercules, watch him so he can’t do anything stupid. Kill him if you sense anything suspicious.”

“Mission confirmed! Kill on condition!”

Woong!

Hercules's arms turned into a vibrating weapon and buster, and went into surveillance mode. He is someone who abandons others. He needs to be suppressed so there are no further damages.

"Cyborg!"

"Koharu and Kyoko, get ready."

"Okay."

Kyoko is a medic and Koharu was an assassin in the virtual version, but she is now a level D Lifer. It is too much to have her fight against a level 4 when she has only gone through the 2nd stage of body modifications.

Cha Jun Sung turned on the Wolf Kill. Park Jin Hyuk wore the Head Hunter on his shoulder as well.

Kyak!

The Black Ghost hiding in the darkness looked at the both of them and prepared to attack.

"Do you know what it is?"

"No."

It is an unfamiliar species to Cha Jun Sung as well. It is something he did not see in South America. There are a lot of mutants in the snake line in Asia. Lifers from that area might know.

He had thought it was a Saman Viper, but he was wrong. It is a snake, so did he get half of it right?

"Do you want to try fighting it?"

"Jun Sung, there might not be a turn for you."

Cha Jun Sung took a step back and Park Jin Hyuk went forward. He can sense the Black Ghost's movement. It seems to be watching him. Should he take it through a loop?

Park Jin Hyuk turned around. The Black Ghost did not miss his movement.

Pang!

The contracted muscles released and it went forward like a spring. It is a tremendous speed. Cha Jun Sung was not able to see the scene clearly either.

Park Jin Hyuk somersaults in place. While he was turning, the Black Ghost's mouth opened and grazed under his feet. It is grossly large.

"Asshole."

Park Jin Hyuk stepped on the Black Ghost's face and ran, triggering the Head Hunter.

He powered through the shell and created a wound. Blood is seeping out. It is a weak wound compared to its body, but it does get wounded.

"Try and catch me."

Park Jin Hyuk runs. He jumps over obstacles and rides walls. There is a centrifugal force that creates the perception that he has glue on his feet.

Tang tang tang!

He fires the Head Hunter from that state. He does not make the mistake of falling down. He circled the Black Ghost and showed the essence of firing on the move.

His shots get their hit 100 out of 100 times. Chun Myung Ik's group witnessed this wonder and were in awe.

He is firing his gun while moving at that speed and hitting his target. They could not dream of this kind of movement. He surpasses the speed that a human can move in.

Bang!

The Black Ghost's tail flies toward Park Jin Hyuk's stomach. It did not aim exactly, but its precise sense showed it where its enemy is located.

When Park Jin Hyuk avoided the tail, it hit the facility's wall. It is a disposed strike.

“Impressive.”

Not even the Head Hunter’s force can penetrate the muscles. It would die if he hit it with hundreds or thousands of bullets, but his stamina would not be able to handle that.

He may act relaxed, but he is not really. He is fighting with all of his power, paying attention to avoiding it while concentrating on attacking it.

Even if his stamina has increased, it will drop because it is not just replenished.

“It’s doable?”

“Its coat is the problem! Ugh! I’ll need to use an explosive bomb! Stand back!”

Park Jin Hyuk launched an explosive bomb. The space is narrow so fragments will fly, but he needs to use a bomb if he is to wound the Black Ghost.

Bang!

The explosive that is embedded in the coat goes off and its flesh splatters. It really is strong.

The level 4 mutant’s regeneration heals the wound. Park Jin Hyuk used all types of bombs to wound it, and used a small advantage to disturb its attention.

“If it was just a little wider!”

They estimate that the Black Ghost is rated low. It is not strong. If the space to battle was not the size of a gym, he would have won a long time ago.

Tatang!

Park Jin Hyuk is no longer a sniper who attacks from one place. He is a versatile Lifer who can create a melee with his excellent physical ability.

“I won’t be able to win either.”

Cha Jun Sung is laughing. It is an impressive development. He can tell how hard Park Jin Hyuk worked on himself over the last 2 months. Even if he is weak, he can fight

with a level 4.

He would be able to put up in level C as well. Of course they do not intend to attempt level C until they have their battle shoots.

Bang bang bang!

The battle is becoming fierce. The Black Ghost accepted Park Jin Hyuk to be on his own level. It gets slower as it is wounded. Its stamina has reached the limit.

“I’m ending it.”

Cha Jun Sung took his Wolf Kill and leapt high. He jumped about 3 or 4 meters in the air.

He brandished the Wolf Kill at the Black Ghost’s neck. It felt something behind it, tensed the muscles in its neck, and turned its head.

When Cha Jun Sung looked next to him, he saw a mouth full of blood and flesh coming towards him. It is a strained situation.

Tang!

A bullet flies by the Black Ghost’s eyes. It stops its attack in surprise.

“My heart.”

“Its senses are good because it’s a snake.”

Snakes are naturally gifted hunters. Since it has become a mutant from that state, it may as well be a murder weapon.

“Support me.”

“We need to annoy it.”

Tatang!

He is only aiming at its face. Cha Jun Sung held the Wolf Kill and faced it from the front. The Black Ghost is getting pushed back because they have combined their strength.

“How!”

Is that possible with the D class store? It does not make sense. There is no way they are level D. Level C? There are Lifers who have already gotten past the advance mission?

Chun Myung Ik looked at Hercules guarding him and the Koharu sisters waiting in the rear. Do those women also have similar abilities?

And what is this cyborg? Was Cha Jun Sung so great?

‘There’s someone named Cha Jun Sung who went into a mission with Hocheon, right?’

“Ah!”

He remembered his meeting with Lim Si Hyun. He had been looking for Cha Jun Sung. He had received a small reward for giving him information. Why was he looking for him?

It is complicated. If they kill the mutant, will they leave him alone?

“Respiratory symptoms discovered from heart and pulse rate! Wavering pupils indicate increase in the probability that he will show adverse reactions! Closely monitored!”

Hercules who had been monitoring everything, focused on Chun Myung Ik. It had detected that he is having other thoughts by his external reactions.

‘That’s a function that isn’t in lower level cyborgs.’

There are a few lower level cyborgs in Hocheon as well. They are useless in battle, but they are often used instead of the manpower they lack.

If the function is not in a lower level, middle? If he is a Lifer who has a middle class cyborg?

“Overload?”

He knows that Overload is Korean. He saw the blog occasionally. There have been rumors on Lifer World recently that someone is operating a bus with a cyborg.

Then it was true? Is that why Lim Si Hyun was looking for Cha Jun Sung?

‘This...’

Embarrassment is washing over him. Everyone is so impressive. They are taking on the Black Ghost on their own when he had not been able to do it even with a force dying around him.

He wants to slander Cha Jun Sung, but it is hard to do because he is being monitored. The reality that he must sit down and wait until the battle is over was painful.

Kyak!

The Black Ghost screams. All of its intestines were spilling out. Judging by the flow of events, it would be caught in no time. As expected, the battle ended soon after.

## Chapter 82

The lower half of the Black Ghost was cut and the giant toppled over.

There are gashes and bullet wounds all over its body. It is the work of Cha Jun Sung and Park Jin Hyuk. It has fallen over but it is still alive, gasping for breath.

“Are you okay?”

“Ow! Are you really asking? A few ribs and an arm is broken. It really hurts.”

Park Jin Hyuk went towards Cha Jun Sung, who was sitting against a wall. He cannot stand up without support. He had been hit by the Black Ghost while fighting with it at a short distance.

He flew 10m. If it had not been for the body modification, his guts would have ruptured from the impact of the tail and hitting the wall and he would have died.

Kyoko took a box out of her space compression bag. The outside is plain, but it is a medical device worth 400,000 points for intermediate trauma treatment.

Wiing.

It must have a fingerprint detecting function on it because as soon as Kyoko put her hand to it, it expanded into a box the size of a person. It was like looking at an operating table in an operating room. 2 medical robots the size of a person's fist and hundreds of medical robots smaller than a millet were waiting.

There is also a computer that check the patient's state. It shows an MRI and X-ray in real time as a hologram.

“Jin Hyuk, get Jun Sung on the table.”

“Sure.”

Park Jin Hyuk supported Cha Jun Sung and got him on the operating table. It is cozy and comfortable. A slight raise over the table is full of machinery.

“Scan the patient.”

-[Scanning... Scan complete. 5 ribs and left arm broken from impact of crash, minor damages to organs, surgery difficulty 56%. Will you start the procedure?]

“Start.”

-[Alert. Starting operation is impossible. Level 4 mutant associated with parasites harmful to humans and powerful virus detected 30m away. Expedite command.]

It is referring to the Black Ghost. The snake is full of parasites and viruses. It is the worst environment for the medical device that needs to ensure protection for its patient.

“I’ll die. I’m a patient.”

Kyak!

Park Jin Hyuk threw a fever shot at the Black Ghost. The heat went into the wound and went off inside. It became a grilled snake.

-[You have earned 12,000 points.]

-[Incineration confirmed.]

-[Operation starting.]

The medical robots apply anesthetic to Cha Jun Sung’s side and arm, and incise the flesh. He can see the broken bones, but he does not feel the pain.

The bigger robot holds the wound open, and the smaller robots go in to match the bones like a puzzle. They also treated the injuries like fractures.

Kyoko is not staying still either. Like the medical student that she is, she was using surgical instruments that the average person would not have been able to use, in supporting the medical robots.

“What should I do with you?”

Park Jin Hyuk talked to himself and walked toward Hocheon. They cannot move an

inch because Hercules is still monitoring them.

“Did you open the door?”

Under a grip strong enough to break his neck, Chun Myung Ik is lifted from the ground. Park Jin Hyuk shook the arm that was holding him up.

Chun Myung Ik tried to use his strength to get out of Park Jin Hyuk’s grip, but he just got dragged around.

“You asshole. You’re selfish trash. I asked if you opened the door. It’s bad enough that you survived after abandoning your guild members, but you have the nerve to abandon the people you abandoned with again?”

The raid leaders including Oh Min Ho put their heads down. They are embarrassed. They know how it feels to be abandoned after experiencing it for themselves.

They must have resented them as they died. Even as they fell endlessly into hell.

“You guys acted so big in the Biology Institute. Cat’s got your tongue now?”

Park Jin Hyuk tapped Chun Myung Ik’s face with his other hand. He had changed from his obedient self as an effect of the body modification.

He is controlling the madness, but a part of his personality has changed. It is not severe, but the change showed when something makes him feel bad.

“You want to die?”

Chun Myung Ik felt the cold in Park Jin Hyuk’s voice. He is sincere.

It is attacking power comparable to level 4. If he makes his move, he cannot live. To die here? He is the master of Hocheon. He needs to escape this danger.

“I’m – I’m sorry about what happened before. I’ll do anything you want.”

Park Jin Hyuk punched him in the stomach. He still has not come to his senses.

-[Operation over!] [The bones and flesh have not healed, so battle is prohibited for a few hours.]

While an inclement atmosphere was rising, Cha Jun Sung's operation was completed. He endured the pain he felt in his ribs and arm, and got up.

The medical robots that had been moving busily, stopped and went back to their places. Then the operation room folded and became a cube again.

It is a huge innovation in the medical field, but it is really expensive.

"Should I kill him? I think I could kill an asshole like this without a conscience."

While going through missions, there will be a day when they kill a person instead of mutants. He could even laugh while killing someone like Chun Myung Ik.

"There's no reason for us to go through the trouble of killing him ourselves. I'm just going to give him a little punishment."

The Wolf Kill with the vibration activated, flashes. Chun Myung Ik's hand is cut off and blood pours out. It had happened in the blink of an eye.

"Ack! My arm!"

Cha Jun Sung put his Wolf Kill in the PDA that came off the wrist.

Since the PDA is important equipment that allows the Lifer and helper to communicate, it is strong enough to withstand force but it is not invincible.

Bang!

After he stabbed it a few times, it shattered. A Lifer without a PDA? Hocheon's guild members did not interfere with Cha Jun Sung.

"Ack! Cha Jun Sung!"

"Let's go."

After exerting strength, his body is trembling. Cha Jun Sung, Park Jin Hyuk, and the others went through the door. Only Chun Myung Ik and Hocheon were left inside.

"Mi – Min Ho. Guys. I'm sorry. Please link the PDA!"

In the case where someone does not have a PDA, someone else can specially link them to send them back to the briefing room. They just need that person's permission.

"Why should I?"

Oh Min Ho's tone is cold. The raid leaders were not looking at him kindly either.

"I know why Cha Jun Sung said that he would not need to get his own hands dirty. Vice master – no – master, we will follow your orders."

Chun Myung Ik thought he had heard wrong. Master? Oh Min Ho is the master?

"I'm the master!"

"If the master is gone, doesn't the vice master have to take his place?"

"What?"

Chun Myung Ik started thinking. His older brother is not talented as a Lifer. Oh Min Ho is technically in the Daeho group bloodline. He is a distant cousin.

Oh Min Ho snickered. It is the last of the man who controlled his subordinates with power instead of heart. If Chun Myung Ik dies, he gets Hocheon.

"You – you assholes!"

"You know well too, right? If a Lifer without a PDA remains in a mission, the mission disappears from the list and he is trapped inside forever."

If he is disconnected from his helper, he cannot live or die. He cannot go back to earth, and must live in the same space as mutants until he dies.

The chance of meeting Lifers completing missions in other zones is like winning the lottery. He cannot even take on a level 3 mutant with his bare body, so he will most likely die before then.

"Try your luck at staying alive, master."

"You!"

Oh Min Ho pushed Chun Myung Ik by his chest when he tried to charge at him with his foot. He fell over easily after being weakened from blood loss. How long will he last?

The raid leader lowered the lever. The door that Cha Jun Sung's group went through, closed.

Pew pew pew pew!

He fires at the lever. Black smoke poured from machinery that had become like honeycomb. This is in case Chun Myung Ik tries to go looking for Cha Jun Sung's group.

They also considered that Cha Jun Sung's group might change their minds and go back for him.

Woong!

The raid leaders quit the mission and returned to each of their briefing rooms and reality. Oh Min Ho stayed until the end and left Chun Myung Ik with the last words,

"I'll inherit it well."

Chun Myung Ik passed out at this reality that was making him crazy. His mentality is already weak because of his wound. It surpassed a shock that he could handle.

Hah!

As he was losing consciousness, he heard Oh Min Ho's laughter. It is the end.

# Chapter 83

“Jun Sung, you’re not preventing it?”

“Are you an angel?”

“He he!”

He had made the decision after drawing up a rough picture. Cha Jun Sung felt strong hostility in the way Oh Min Ho and the raid leaders were looking at Chun Myung Ik.

He did sin, but it is difficult to see as something that it worthy of dying over. That is why he broke his PDA and threw him to the wolves. The wolves would dispose of him.

They could save him, but the probability of that is very low.

Even if they stop resenting him, they will not lose an opportunity. If they kill him, they take Hocheon. Honestly, Chun Myung Ik and Oh Min Ho’s group are the same type of people.

The only difference was whether they wronged them or not.

It is all well-earned punishment.



Time is passing. It has been 3 days since Cha Jun Sung’s group entered the mission.

A mutant appeared once in a while, but most of them were level 1 or 2 and there were not many level 3. Even those were weak as the Black Ghost’s offspring.

It does not seem like there will be more level 4. It would be okay to just send Hercules.

“If it’s not here, it means that it’s in a secret location.”

“That’s probably right.”

They are searching through everything because they do not know the location of the sample lab. Over a few days, places that seem plausible showed up once in a while.

“Hercules, break it.”

Bang!

Hercules is beating the door. It does not have a knob. Since they do not know how to get in, they can only force entry. It must not be a very solid door because it broke quickly.

“Found it.”

“Looks like it.”

“Wow! It’s packed with samples like it is in the movies!”

When they went deeper inside, there was a motley of samples stored in a cool frost. They do not know how the freezer is on.

They do not want to know either. All they have to do is complete the mission and get the points.

“What’s what?”

-[It is the 3rd blue bottle on the top left, 4th row.]

What has gotten into it? Zephyrus spoke to Park Jin Hyuk. It is really quiet, but it is being friendly and telling him which sample will allow him to complete the mission.

“Odin, is that the goal?”

-[That is right.]

When Cha Jun Sung asked for confirmation, Odin responded immediately. Normally, he would have said ‘Figure it out for yourself’ or acted like he is invisible.

-[You have attained the samples. You have cleared the sample takeover.]

“Is it complete? Hercules, look around to see if there are any items that would be worth

points.”

Once Hercules returns, they will go back. It would be good if it came back with something.

Hercules looked around outside and came with a strange locker. When it put it down and they looked through it, it was just full of documents in English.

“Let’s go back.”

“Hold on.”

Kyoko is reading the documents. Is there something interest in there? As she is interested in the medical field, she has a lot of curiosity regarding the mutants and Biology Institute.

“Aphrodite, is this true?”

-[It is true.]

“What is?”

Park Jin Hyuk asked Kyoko. She did not answer, and kept reading. There is so much of it that she cannot take it all in at once.

“I’ll have to take this back to read it. Give me a few days.”

“Huh? Sure.”

Cha Jun Sung spoke without concern. He could probably translate it if he put his mind to it, but left it to her thinking that there is no point.

Woong!

They are returning. They felt uneasy about the ordeal with Chun Myung Ik, but they finished safely without problems. They could increase the difficulty.



When Cha Jun Sung's group was returning, the helpers were discussing the documents they had taken.

-[Odin, shouldn't you have made it so they couldn't read the documents?]

-[All they can find out with those is just the tip of the iceberg.]

-[The world is different too.]

-[The world is different at the tip of the iceberg too, but we can hide it.]

-[As long as Life Mission has been created, the secret will be revealed. We cannot block everything. Even if they take a guess and find something out, it will be buried quickly.]

It is all for the Three. Since they are Lifers who have opened level C, it is okay to reveal a small part of the secret to them. They deserve that much.

If Cha Jun Sung had heard them talking, he would not have known what it was about.

What is what? Three? Secret?

-[Will the 36 rankers be able to develop to level S? Or even level A?]

-[It's not if they can do it. Get rid of any suspicion. They need to do it since the purpose of creating Life Mission was to kill them.]

-[The one chance to rally for one mistake. We are only given one opportunity! We cannot afford anything else. It is the end if we fail. Keep that in mind.]

The helpers are silent. It is so. The rankers need to die for this war to end. It is already too late, but that is the only way if they are to fix the situation.

# Chapter 84

Kyoko found a dictionary on medical and cytology terms, and looked over the documents. What she had briefly read was interesting.

There is useless content mixed in, but she looked those over once and tossed them. They were unimportant and complicated getting to the point.

She had asked Cha Jun Sung for a few days, but she could tell that would not be possible once she started working on them.

So she extended it by a week. Honestly, Cha Jun Sung would have given her a month if she had asked for it. He cannot force missions on her. She has a personal life too.

She only has to participate in the advance mission. They need to cross over to level C.

-[These documents deal with the onset of the A virus that occurred in the world of Lifers. Pharmaceutical company Empire researched this.]

-[Empire isn't the one that made it?]

-[No. The method to make it isn't here. It says that there was a sudden outbreak.]

The A virus appeared out of nowhere. It contaminated all life forms including people, animals, and plants.

Like the top pharmaceutical company in the world, Empire studied the A virus. It is not in pursuit of profit. They were trying to make a vaccine.

The Institute that Cha Jun Sung performed was basically a vaccine manufacturer as well.

-[Is the sample we took the virus or the vaccine?]

-[It's the vaccine.]

-[If they created a vaccine to combat the disease, why is that world so messed up?]

-[According to this, there are 2 reasons. The first is that there is no life to inoculate, and the second is that they might as well not inoculate if it's done once someone is infected.]

-[So does that mean that the vaccine was created after the world fell?]

It is understandable. It is not like the A virus is being spread now and it has already spread, so what point is there in creating the vaccine?

-[Are those documents about the process of creating the vaccine?]

-[Similar.]

The Biology Institute had also been packed with mutants. It does not seem like they broke in from outside, but they were infected while doing research.

They could not manufacture the vaccine as though producing them in a factory. They would need to go under a high degree of manufacturing, but they would not have the manpower to deal with that quantity.

Cha Jun Sung's group only discovered 1 thing as well. The people who had not been vaccinated were infected, and the people who had not been infected were killed by those who were.

-[Is that place Earth?]

-[When comparing material from Lifer World and the lab, it is the Earth. It seems so from what my sister and I experienced as well. You're feeling it as well, aren't you?]

A Lifer went on vacation abroad in reality. He left a mark at a place like a milestone, and went into a mission when he came back.

He realized that the place he ended up happened to be where he went on vacation and when he looked for the monument, he was surprised to find the trace he left behind.

-[What do I think it is?]

-[The Earth is one. It's just that the past, present, and future won't be the same. If dimensional movement is possible, we can go anywhere we want.]

Time and space travel. Does that mean that it is the same Earth living in a different world? It is a headache to Cha Jun Sung, who is not fluent in science.

Even when they ask the helpers, they do not say anything except that they are not authorized to discuss it. Do they need to advance to level S for the helpers to tell them anything? They need to go all the way to know.

-[Since there's nothing we can figure out right away, let's focus on advancing.]

-[Okay.]

Cha Jun Sung wrapped up the discussion. Life Mission, which is full of questions, seems to have a lot of secrets but he does not intend to dig in any further.

They had found a small piece without doing anything. If they just go forward as they are doing now, additional pieces will turn up.



Lim Si Hyun and 6 vice masters are gathered in the Seven Stars master room.

They are searching through level D advance missions with the report that the Strategic Planning Department put all of their efforts into creating as a foundation.

Recently, Seven Stars and the government worked together to complete a 18,000 point mission.

There were a lot of victims because 2 level 4 mutants had appeared, but it was a success. If they get used to it by the 2nd half, all that is left is advancement so they must start to prepare themselves.

“This is good for a location that won't receive interference from outside.”

Lim Si Hyun shared the mission he chose with the vice masters. It is the perfect single mission. They deal with variables to be ready for special missions.

Not long ago, he went to Hocheon to pay his respects to Chun Myung Ik. Even if he was weak, he was the master of a large guild. There is no reason to think that it might not happen to anyone.

Oh Min Ho and the raid leaders were suspicious but it had happened in a mission and it is a personal matter of Hocheon, so he had left it at being suspicious.

“Hm! A battle at sea... We can prevent a special mission, but isn't it too isolated? If we fail, it would be hard to escape.”

“A boat will also provide a narrow space for the force to move around in.”

Various opinions are exchanged. Lim Si Hyun had not called the vice masters together to push them like a maverick. He wants to hear all of their opinions.

“Since it is the world of Life Mission, we cannot think about it as an average boat.”

If they read the description of the mission, it says that tens of thousands of people can board. This is a city that is called a boat. It will be tremendous in size.

“And the more narrow our space is, the better it is for our soldiers.”

“Why is that?”

“Are you trying to make the force into party groups for individual movement?”

Individual movement breaks up the power, so it is suitable for elites.

“I'm thinking of inviting mercenaries.”

“Mercenaries?”

Seven Stars and the government combined to fill the 100 people. The personnel have all gone through the 2nd stage of body modification and have level D gear, so they are the ruthless elite. Are mercenaries necessary?

“We plan to have 4 mercenaries, and it is someone you all know well.”

“Who is it?”

“Overload.”

“What! Is that real?”

The room became noisy. Are they surprised by just the name? Overload has a middle class cyborg. If he joins, it will become a great help to them.

Cha Jun Sung rejected the 10,000 points from the other day, and said that he would help with advancement instead. With his personality, he would have done it to keep his promise.

“Our power will become stronger, meaning the victim rate of the 2 groups will decrease!”

“We’ll have to see the activity, but they will be receiving 500,000 from Seven Stars, 500,000 from the government, 1 million total in kickbacks in exchange.

If he shows outstanding activity, they could even give 2 million, not just 1 million. Large guilds accumulate a tremendous amount of points because they operate buses.

It cannot be said to be overflowing, but that amount is manageable if the executives spread it amongst themselves. They cannot skimp on investments for the future.

Unlike Hocheon, Seven Stars is loyal to Lim Si Hyun and the guild’s atmosphere is free-spirited. It is because he handles them according to his personality.

Even though it seems like nothing, it took a lot of effort on Lim Si Hyun’s part to get it to this place. A tree cannot grow on cement.

“What do you think? Will you go with this?”

“They’re all similar, so we will follow master’s orders.”

“Agreed.”

“I agree.”

Lim Si Hyun smiled. As long as there are people who trust and follow him, Seven Stars will be famous for all the world to see.

# Chapter 85

Cha Jun Sung went to Seven Stars again. Lim Si Hyun said that he would meet him wherever it was convenient for him, but Cha Jun Sung just decided to move himself.

He does not do much when he is not completing missions, so he does not get out much.

Seven Stars is far away, but it is quite fun to get fresh air and go as exercise. He does not have the aim to go see beautiful female celebrities.

On his way, Cha Jun Sung picked Park Jin Hyuk up. Since he is a party member, he has a right to hear what Seven Stars has to say and what conditions they will present.

They were originally going to meet inside the mission. Koharu and Kyoko need to meet with them as well. But they said that they did not want to be bothered with it, and left it up to Cha Jun Sung.

“Dead Ark? Is this the mission that Seven Stars wants to do?”

“That’s right.”

“It’s the marines.”

“If we leave the routed field, a special mission appears. We need to find an extinct kind in order to avoid this, and that was this.”

-[Level D Advance Mission: Dead Ark] [Goal: Attainment]

-[Description: The people who boarded the ark leaving the infected city were relieved with the belief that they have left hell, but they were mistaken. The people who were running away, are facing another hell. Remove the source of occupation and return it to its normal state.]

-[Reward: 20,000 points. Lucky box.]

The description is long and it is not ordinary. There are a lot of hidden meanings in it.

The aspect that bother them most is the infected city. The people boarded the ark to leave it. It seems that they were trying to escape the dangerous zone when the ark became contaminated.

The ark is level D. There is a high chance that the infected city is level C or B.

Then is it the A virus infection? Cha Jun Sung did not think it was so.

If it were referring to mutants, did it have to use the word infection? The word may be the same, but he had a feeling it would be different.

Cha Jun Sung guessed Lim Si Hyun's hidden intent through the mission.

He is trying to gain information in the Dead Ark to get to the infected city. He is planning a linked attack.

"Link."

"Of course. You guessed it."

"I felt that it was ineffective to create a plan for each time we complete an unassociated mission. That's why I changed the way we are thinking."

He is looking for a mission that is associated. Dead Ark has all of the consistent elements. The context is like the Closed Area or Underpass.

He faced the Caicus while fighting Kawods, and had faced a Blood-Sucking Evil while fighting the blood-sucking insects. This is association.

It is a matter of difference in difficulty but with everything in consideration, the mutants they need to fight and the environment must be similar. If they need to go into a mission, this aspect will be comfortable.

When Cha Jun Sung had gone in the mission with the Blood-Sucking Evil, he had been linked by going in the Underpass. That is a safer way of facing the danger.

"Dead Ark. Can you think of a mutant that is fitting for the mission?"

Can he think of one? He can. It is one that is annoying and tricky. They will suffer if they put down their guards. They might witness a scene where a Lifer becomes a

mutant.

“Infection... Parasite.”

“Yes.”

Parasites do not distinguish between people and mutants. All life forms except kin are parasitic targets.

A variety of parasites exist in the virtual version, from level 1 to 8. The last level 8 is one of the 36 nightmares, and is truly frightening.

Like a level 8, its basic efficiency is excellent and its parasitic capacity is unmatched. If it erodes the brain of a level 9, it will go to the limbs.

Taking Evil Queen as an example, the body would be ripped into thousands of pieces before encroachment but that is how strong the grip on life is.

“So a flame thrower is absolutely necessary.”

“We are preparing a lot. It is difficult to bring damage with guns.”

The way to hunt parasites is just to kill the parasites in the host’s brain. If the host is killed, the parasites will just jump out and look for a new host.

Setting them on fire is more effective than aiming at each one with a gun. Even with bombs, fewer shots are better than grenades.

“Ugh! Parasites.”

“Cheer up.”

Cha Jun Sung comforted Park Jin Hyuk. Looking at parasites digging their way out of their hosts makes them want to puke. Beyond its cruelty, it is disgusting.

“We’re leaving in 1 month. We will give you whatever item you want as compensation.”

Cha Jun Sung said that he understood. They will not do it willingly. They will not like it, but he needs to relay the conversation to Koharu and Kyoko first.



Cha Jun Sung is writing on a white sheet of paper with a pen. It is full of numbers that do not make sense. He calculated the urgent points.

There is a little less than 1 month left until they enter the advance mission. During that time, he compared the points they hoped for to the possible points.

“Should we try asking him to pull it forward? It’ll be okay if we just figure out the D class energy core.”

A C class can be produced with a D class. 3 to 7 are consumed in production. The more there are, the higher the possibility of success is. He can gather whatever is lacking until they enter.

However, he cannot catch all of the chickens. It means that he will need to give up either the 4th stage of body modifications or the C class energy core.

This is the same as taking someone else’s to complete my own. That is why he thought of the item he would get from Seven Stars and the government.

It is only a matter of time once Hercules’ energy core is resolved. He can ask the party members for help and Lim Si Hyun for an advance?

Cha Jun Sung is weak in these types of matters. He is confident if he is asking for a fair price, but he is asking for money before doing work in this situation.

“It’ll be revealed once we enter the mission anyway. Should I tell them it’s an advanced cyborg?”

It is actually not a middle class cyborg, but an advanced one. Once he purchases the parts, its power will show. So he needs to get an advance if he is thinking about the force’s safety.

Sometimes, taking it head on is the silver bullet. He is just revealing something that would come out, a month earlier. If they keep asking, he can just lie a bit.

Cha Jun Sung opened a chat room in the PDA and invited the party members. It is presumptuous, but he needs to discuss the Dead Ark.

# Chapter 86

Lim Si Hyun did not believe the existence of the advanced cyborg so easily. It took a few hours just to convince him. Even after that, he is still in a dubious state.

-[I will speak with the government and vice masters, and contact you again.]

This is the answer that Lim Si Hyun gave Cha Jun Sung. If it really is an advanced cyborg, they have no reason not to give him an advance for the parts.

It is a power that can fight with level 4. Parasitism is also impossible for it because it is a machine. To parasites, it is a bothersome creature that is not nutritious.

Lim Si Hyun said that he would handle Seven Stars, and left the government to Han Chang Jin. The groups are different, so his say does not matter to them.

The cadres of the 2 groups said that they could not believe it, and asked to see Hercules' power. They say that they will give an advance for the items after that.

That is not hard to do. Cha Jun Sung showed Seven Stars and the government how Hercules can complete a 5000 point mission by himself.

They had only heard of it and were very surprised because it was the first time they were seeing it for themselves.

The advance was confirmed. Cha Jun Sung asked for 7 D class energy cores. He told them to figure out who would give him 3 and who would give him 4 amongst themselves.

It was decided that Seven Stars would provide 3 energy cores, the flame thrower, and necessities, while the government would provide the other 4. He received the energy cores within a few days.

Cha Jun Sung ran to the briefing room, held his trembling heart, and created the C class energy core. It took 7 D class energy cores and 20,000 points.

He will have 4 leftover if he succeeds with 3, but it is worth crying over if this fails.

Odin gave fear of failing, but the production was fortunately a success. Hercules' specifications had finally become worth its 5 million points.

He started working to come up with the points for body modifications himself.

After about 2 weeks, Lim Si Hyun proposed a 13,000 point mission to try seeing how they work together. He seems light, but he is a thorough person in various aspects.

Cha Jun Sung convened the party members. It is not a bad idea to do a warm-up exercise. They should use this chance to introduce themselves properly and to gain trust.



Hercules is fighting with a mutant twice its size.

It brandishes the vibrating weapon and blasts the buster. The radius around the monsters fighting became a mess. They have never seen such chaos.

There are dozens of Lifers standing far from the battle zone.

They are Cha Jun Sung's party, Seven Stars, and government officials. They watched the battle and engraved the cyborg's power in their minds.

"To battle with a Giant Hammer! And it isn't pushed back!"

They look to be level on the outside, but Hercules is actually at an advantage.

The energy core had been limited to 70%. It is fighting the Giant Hammer without 30% of its power. If it deploys the remainder, it could even take on 2 of them.

Cha Jun Sung is holding back on the power because of the charging points. If he uses 100% of it, there is a huge difference in the amount of points that are used up. There is no point in wasting.

The Giant Hammer slams down its hammer hand weighing hundreds of kilograms. Hercules extended its left hand toward the hammer.

Bang!

The buster's shockwave flings the hammer out. As the Giant Hammer's arm is twisted, it loses balance toward one side.

In that state, Hercules fired the buster again at its face. The shock makes the giant scream and fall over.

Its brain was shaken and it cannot get back up. Hercules went on the Giant Hammer's chest and aimed the buster precisely at its face.

There is a continuous firing function in the buster too. It might fall behind in power, but the continuity is like that of a machine gun. The power is enough to rip a human to shreds as well.

It cannot stay sane when such a weapon is being fired in series.

Hercules did not stop its attack on the Giant Hammer until it stopped writhing in pain.

It wrapped it up with the vibrating weapon. It killed the Giant Hammer by cutting its neck.

-[You have earned 14,000 points.]

It is middle class. It is stronger than a Black Ghost and weaker than a Destroyer. If it had been the Destroyer, there would have been a lot of repairs to make even if they won.

"Kill completed!"

"You worked hard."

Cha Jun Sung praised Hercules' efforts. The Lifers are envious. If they have just 2 of those, they could sweep any level D mission.

They had completed a 13,000 point mission with just 1. They want to know how to get such a cyborg, but they cannot ask more when he says that it was by chance.

"Is that a pass?"

"Of course. Well, this advance mission might turn out to be easier than we thought."

Pass? He does not need to ask. The Lifers were speechless in front of the cyborg's power, since they had only seen it in the virtual version.

It catches everything by itself. Even if they think about helping it, there is nothing to help with. If it fights with mutants in the center of the party, they will feel as if they had a thousand person military.

"Have you stuck to this method of hunting since you got the cyborg?"

"I can't say that I haven't. As you can see, it is safe and comfortable... I need to quickly gather points to fix this guy up."

He had poured everything into this investment. If he had relied on himself as a Lifer instead of on Hercules, he would not have been able to do this with such speed.

His body modification will also be finished a day or two before going into the mission. Just as he had done with Field of Meat, he had gone through all of the processes that he could go through in level D as well.

He had not been able to touch the level C store yet. There are a lot of items that he needs or wants to purchase, but he is not advancing from his drought with points.

"We have something to tell the two of you separately."

"Do you mean just us?"

"Yes, that's right."

Lim Si Hyun and Han Chang Jin understood and sent his cadres back.

The only people left in the mission now were Cha Jun Sung, his party, and the two leaders of their respective groups. They had discussed plenty, but what more is there to be said?

"It is about Koharu, who we introduced earlier."

"Ms. Koharu?"

Lim Si Hyun knows Mizuki Koharu well. There is also a light acquaintance. They are of different nationalities, but they cannot help but know each other because he is an

actor and she is a famous model.

“She is Amhu.”

“Amhu!”

“It’s nice to see you again. We hid it earlier when everyone else was around because it could become messy.”

She had met Lim Si Hyun and Han Chang Jin in missions before. In a world where everyone is linked, they had even been in parties together before. The reason why they had not recognized her? She had changed the character’s appearance.

There are few Lifers who go around with their true faces. Cha Jun Sung had also changed the features of his character to be sharp like the swords he is specialized in.

“There are 4 rankers here. I realize how Cha Jun Sung adheres to the minority. The occupation balance is excellent.”

Cha Jun Sung and Koharu are close-range, Park Jin Hyuk is the cover, and Kyoko is the support.

When looking at current abilities, Park Jin Hyuk should be the best of the Lifers all over the world. Someone who has not yet opened level C cannot even be an opponent.

Lim Si Hyun’s group does not know what Park Jin Hyuk is like yet. They just think that he is a pretty good sniper. They do not step up and let them know.

“Is there anything else you hid?”

“No, there isn’t anything else.”

“We would like to keep maintaining a good relationship.”

The potential of the 36 rankers is their know-how. They have faced level 8 mutants and countless experiences that average Lifers could not have.

There must be Lifers who are excellent even if they are not rankers. But unlike these people who are uncertain, rankers have capabilities.

In that sense, Cha Jun Sung's party can be highly anticipated in the future. As long as they do not become enemies, they will advance quickly if they help each other.

"It is in 8 days. We will prepare the gear, so just match the time."

They do not need to go out of their way to go to Seven Stars. If they go to an assigned room, they can all gather and enter the mission together no matter where they are in the world.

"Don't worry about it."

"Then."

Lim Si Hyun and Han Chang Jin returned. It is in 8 days. Cha Jun Sung must finish his body modifications.

# Chapter 87

800,000 points and 160,000 achievement points were deducted. He is out of points again. In exchange, he got through the 4th stage of body modifications. He can tell his senses are amplified by 16 times.

He felt he could crush a rock with one blow and move faster than a bullet. He thought that he would even be able to sense an ant's movement.

He easily surpassed the limits of man and advanced to the rank of a superhuman.

-[How does it feel?]

“Interesting.”

-[You need to get stronger. That is the only way you can survive in hell.]

“You’re nagging again. I’ll be able to do level C if I just get the battle shoot, right?”

-[As long as you don’t underestimate a level 6.]

Mutants’ strength begins with level 7. They are devils that could suck a country dry.

Level 5 and 6 are advanced mutants, but level 6 and 7 are downgrades. If Cha Jun Sung uses the battle shoot, he could even fight the Caicus.

However, a level 6 is too much. He will need at least 2 or 3 people who are on the same level that he is at. Koharu and Park Jin Hyuk will do. It is better the more colleagues one has.

Cha Jun Sung received a notice. It was time.

He could have gone through the body modification earlier, but he had to delay it because he did not have enough achievement points. But he had barely managed to complete it before going into the mission.

-[Dead Ark... Be careful.]

“If you’re going to tell me, do it freely. What is this?”

Odin is the best at playing hard to get. Once Cha Jun Sung is curious, Odin shuts up.

Cha Jun Sung grumbled, but kept it in mind. If it is to the point where Odin warns him, it must be dangerous. The mission smells fishy. He will need to pay attention.

“Go go!”

-[Approved. You are being sent to level D mission, Dead Ark. Mission start.]

Cha Jun Sung entered the mission. Odin’s monologue breaks the silence.

-[The boat cannot be anchored at the infected city. Please do your best.]

Helpers’ missions advance Lifers. Odin does not want Cha Jun Sung to die. If he dies, Odin will be extremely upset.



It is when Cha Jun Sung entered Dead Ark. It is what happened in the world that he completes missions in, not in the world that he lives in.

“No. There’s no reason for me to listen to the request of a human.”

A man with red eyes scoffed. This man is saying the most unbelievable thing that he has ever heard in his life. And when he is just a human.

“I can’t go. But that doesn’t mean your father can go.”

“You! Who do you think you’re talking about!”

The red-eyed man is in a rage. He is angry that the man dares mention him but to bring up his father as well, it is something that he cannot stand for.

“It’s fine.”

“Father!”

“Think of it as getting fresh air for the first time in a while, and listen to his request.”

The red-eyed man had a look of disbelief. His father's word is absolute. If his father says it, he listens. He still feels bad though.

"All you have to do is deliver this notepad on the right day. It's easy, no?"

He wanted to throw his fist in the face that was laughing at him, but he held back. His father is next to him. He cannot be disrespectful in front of his father.

"But."

"What!"

"If you go to the area at the time I tell you, you'll be able to meet some strong mutants. What do you think? Tempting, huh?"

The red-eyed man showed interest. He has an aggressive personality. He likes battle. He thinks that the only being above him is his father.

"Is that true?"

"Yeah."

The red-eyed man puts his forehead in his hand. Beyond the temptation, he has to go anyway according to his father's orders. He will need to pretend he cannot win and help out.

"You unlucky man. Where did you even come from?"

"The sky?"

"Don't talk nonsense. When do I need to go? Tell me for certain now because I never want to speak to you again."

He said the date with a blank expression. As soon as the red-eyed man heard the departure date, he greeted his father and left.

"I would have beat him if he were my child. Should I do it before he goes?"

"I'll apologize as his father. Don't worry. Even if he talks like that, he will deliver it properly since I told him to do it myself."

He naturally needs to do it. Delivering the notepad is the ultimate goal.

“He’ll be really surprised.”

“I’m sure that’ll be fun in itself. I was really surprised at first, too.”

They look at each other. They have a surprising resemblance to each other. Their atmospheres are different, but their overall appearance is so similar that they could be twins.

“Right? It’ll be fun?”

“Fun? You said fun?”

The father could not speak. The man did not ask for a response either. He knew what the father would say.

‘Just do it well, mutant son.’

The silence continues. All he can do is hope that he will get what he wants.



When building a ship for a singular reason, the aims for creating it are bound to show themselves in its design. So much so that the purpose can be determined by looking at it from the outside.

A warship contains all types of firearms and emphasizes practicality.

A ferry highlights the grandiosity that will catch the customers’ attentions, and a cargo ship expands the space to load cargo to create the optimal loading dock.

Even a submarine is shaped for aquatic activities. Not just with boats, but most things appear to be what they are made for.

When they entered Dead Ark and got on a boat to where they thought the ark was, however, the force members were unsure of what it was.

“Is that really a boat?”

“It must be since it’s floating on the sea. Wow! The view for one is amazing.”

There are curves everywhere but overall, it is a huge cubed structure floating in the middle of an open sea. It is ginormous.

If they say that the spot they set foot on is the center, they cannot get a view of the ends. The length is estimated in kilometers and it seemed like it would easily reach over 100 meters in height.

They cannot know because they cannot see the side but when looking from the top, all they could see was a vast steel floor that looked like several gymnasiums combined.

Without exaggeration, they could play soccer without the ball falling into the sea.

Zing!

Among the force members, Hercules looks at a spot as its eyes light up. It is scanning something that can be seen lightly in the distance.

“Land discovered ahead. Estimated distance 20km, error range is 2 to 3km!”

The force members adjacent to Hercules turned their heads. That is the infected city. If it had been a plane, it is close enough that they would arrive in a few hours.

That place is a different world to them because there is no reason for the boat to anchor there.

-[Master, I found a ladder to go inside on the right.]

-[Wait.]

A radio came in from Lim Si Hyun. When comparing the boat to a building, the force members are on the roof. There has to be a ladder to take down.

The force members gathered to the ladder. The gentle wind is peaceful. The moment they go down the ladder however, they need to fight with their lives on the line.

Lim Si Hyun told them to see how many ladders of this kind there were.

They split into parties. Since there is no particular danger, there are no restrictions to

their movement. After searching for 1 hour, they found that there are 18 ladders.

7 at the stem, 5 in the center, 6 at the aft. The goal of this mission is to remove the source.

If they knew the source's location, they would be able to end it quickly without bringing warfare, but they need to choose 1 of the 3 regions because they do not know.

They will be close to the source if they are lucky, but they need to go to the farthest place if they are unlucky. They would need to make a full round around a boat the size of a small city.

# Chapter 88

They went into battle several times after entering the ark. None of them were very serious. They ended with Hercules in charge and the force members acting as support.

Too few mutants appear for it to be a 20,000 point mission. It could have been done with a party instead of a force.

There is no reason for it to be this easy, so there is a chance that they are hiding somewhere or are concentrated in another area. They wanted to avoid a situation where they would have to face all of them at the same time.

-[Multiple biological reactions detected from the front! Expected to be sleeping from its weak vitality! Command approach if you want a precise confirmation!]

Sleep? Hercules said that there were at least hundreds, and requested command for approach.

In searching the ark, the force relied solely on Hercules.

They send it as far as the hologram's range, and follow behind. They do not move together. They need to be careful when they think about the parasite's infectious properties.

Normally when they are wounded by mutants, their skin is ripped or their bones are broken. It is better not to be wounded, but they can live as long as they do not die instantly.

Parasites are different. Regardless of the size of the wound, there is no incubation period once contact is allowed, securing itself in the brain, and being reborn as an infection in the host.

Mutants are controllable by level because they are mutations, but humans are weak to infections because of their simple body structures.

There is nothing to do once they enter the body, and it is all over once they start breeding. Dying is the easier way to go.

With the current situation, they have no choice but to rely on Hercules.

-[Go.]

Hercules goes to the place where he can detect biological reactions. The force waits while holding their breaths in the lobby, about 100m away.

4 parties, 40 people are blocking all of the holes in the lobby.

The members are in the passageways, vents, common rooms, and bathrooms to wait. The petite people even come out of tiny holes.

Hercules pulls the door blocking it. It is made of steel, but it opened after being shaken a few times.

There is a narrow hallway. At the end, there is a door that looks like that of a bank vault, but it is cut through with the vibrating blade.

White steam pours out. It is not heat. It is cold air. A cold air in the negatives spreads outside the door.

-[Temperature measured negative 40 degrees, determining structure... Measure complete. Data transmission!]

Ping!

Hercules got a measure of the room letting out cold air, and sent it to Cha Jun Sung. Then it went in for further investigation.

The information is formal. It says that the room's purpose is to store something, and that the biological reaction expanded to the thousands.

As the distance grew closer, the detection radius widened. The temperature kept decreasing and reached negative 60 degrees.

It is a temperature that they could somehow work in if the force members all went through the 2nd stage of body modifications and were aided by impact tights and

metal armor.

However, the environment is too extreme to use as an area for rest. They need to be at least like Cha Jun Sung and Park Jin Hyuk to be able to stay there for a long period of time.

-[Region where lower level parasites cannot act! The parasites cannot withstand the negative 60 degree chill with their thin coats. Discovered as safe zone!]

This is the best news that the force members have had. It is better to shiver in the cold than to be weary of parasites that might come out at them at any time.

-[Safety odds?]

-[85%! 15% is the odds that a parasite above level 3 appears!]

This means that level 3 and 4 would be able to withstand the conditions. When Hercules kills a mutant, it studies the cells and learns everything about it on the spot.

It is an artificial intelligence beyond the abilities of a computer. It can analyze up to level 4 as long as it has a specimen. From level 5, the cyborg's level needs to be increased.

-[Force, prepare to move.]

-[Army unit! We will focus on the rear once Seven Stars goes.]

Lim Si Hyun and Han Chang Jin moved the force. They need to go wherever it is safer. Anywhere as long as they can relax for even a moment.

Even as they were moving, Hercules did not stop searching the area. Then as they were arriving, something surprising happened.

-[Biological response confirmed! 1200 total! Survivors in frozen surface discovered!]

They had discovered survivors for the first time since they had wandered this universe.



The force members shiver at the declining temperature. Even with strengthened bodies and D class gear, they were having difficulty with the negative 60 degree temperature.

Then they entered the frozen sleeping room. The average person would have frozen to death within moments. That is how severe the difference in temperature was from the outside.

Cha Jun Sung turned around once and looked at the 1200 capsules filling the huge room with wonderment.

He had never even seen a shadow of a person while going through missions. He was always busy starting and ending with mutants. Could they be woken up?

Cha Jun Sung went to Hercules. There is a dizzying amount of machinery. He does not know what anything is because he does not have a foundation in it.

“Can we wake up the survivors?”

“Hacking the freezer system... Hacking complete. Thawing frozen sleep is possible. Once thawed, they will each have their time difference to wake up!”

The firewall is lax. It was left vulnerable to hacking. Since there is no survivor who is awake, there is no way to block the hacking.

Hercules tried to hack the boat’s main system while hacking the freezer system, but it had been impossible because there was no power.

It still found out a lot of information. There are 7 more freezer rooms, for rooms number 1 through 8. This is room 1, and it is where the ark’s sailor and his family are frozen.

There are over 20,000 survivors. There are 3000 people in the larger rooms.

It really was a marine city. The hypothesis is that people ran away from the city infested with parasites and settled on this ark.

Then an infected host mixed in with the people and created this mess.

“Should we wake them?”

“Hm!”

Lim Si Hyun is thinking. Do they have to thaw them? It would be humane to wake them up. They might even be able to get some useful information if they are able to converse.

However, there is some reluctance. Say they wake them. Do they have to leave them here once the mission is over? Can they take these people to Earth?

On top of that, a special mission was not activated when they discovered the survivors. Is it because there are so many? That could be why, but it does not seem to be the reason.

The biggest problem is that the ark is the parasites' nest. What if all of the survivors are infected? Then it becomes dangerous for the force.

“Don't you think a special mission isn't activated because they aren't Lifers?”

“Let's wake them up one by one.”

From the way things are going, they cannot pass them by without waking them. They can wake them up one by one and minimize the danger. They will need to kill any hosts.

“You heard, right? Search the list you secured and start with whoever you get a feeling for first.”

Hercules chose someone who would know the circumstances well. According to the search, 1 of the 7 people in room 1 was a lieutenant.

-[Frozen capsule number 1200 is being thawed. 5 minutes until thawed. He may be confused because he has been frozen for 4 years.]

A capsule positioned at the very top twisted in different directions and made its way down. Inside the thin ice, there is a middle-aged man lying down.

The ice melts little by little. Waking him suddenly is the same as making him freeze to death, so they need to revive his body temperature and bring him back little by little with his bodily functions.

“Jun Sung, the internal temperature is negative 60. Won’t he die as soon as he comes out?”

“I have no idea. I’m sure there’s a heating function in the capsule or something.”

Like Cha Jun Sung predicted, there is a heating function. The people also wear snowsuits when they enter the capsules. Once he is revived, he will be able to endure the cold to some extent.

-[Thawing complete.]

Hercules took the lieutenant in its arms and went outside. He cannot remain here and must be removed to a warm place. Since the door is closed, he can go there.

The force members went past the vault-like door and the door that was ripped off.

“Ugh...”

The lieutenant is coming to. He is tense under the eyes of the force members. It is a world that appears to be the same as Earth, but he is a person of a different universe.

He opens his eyes. His focus is blurred. He had been frozen for 4 years. If it had been clear, that would have been suspicious to begin with. They waited with patience.

“Ack!”

The first sound that the lieutenant made once he woke up and saw Cha Jun Sung standing in front of him was to scream so loudly it felt like the ark would collapse.

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# Chapter 90

He is a proud captain of the American Navy. At the end of the day, he had not lost that pride. That was until he boarded the ark.

“What- what year is it right now?”

“...Does anyone know?”

Cha Jun Sung looked at the force members. How could they know? They could know the year during the mission, but no one paid attention because it did not matter to them.

“You slept for 4 years. We don’t know the time here.”

How should he explain it? Should he say that he became a Lifer because of a game called Life Mission, and came to this universe to save it from mutants?

Cha Jun Sung felt that it was crazy even while he was thinking it. He would just try to pass it off.

“4 years... Since I was frozen in 2031, it’s the year 2035. So 4 years passed.”

It is a self-mocking voice. The lieutenant spaced out for a bit and spoke,

“What country are you from?”

“We’re from Korea.”

“Korea?”

The lieutenant is taken aback. How could it be! Korea is one of the first 6 nations that perished without even an ant left behind. The country had been dried out completely.

“How did a Korean get here? You would have perished by the awakened Black Evil.”

“Black Evil!”

Black Evil Aduroque.

It is a level 9 mutant taking one of the 6 spots as disasters along with the Evil Queen. In the virtual version, it dominated Asia. Its origin was Korea!

Even Cha Jun Sung who fought with the Evil Queen is ignorant regarding the 5 disasters. Strictly speaking, he had not seen the end of Life Mission either.

If the virtual version had been commercialized for a few more years, he might have been able to kill all of the disasters. The 36 rankers could have formed a union to kill them too.

“Is it important where we’re from at this point? When the world is in ruins?”

“He he!”

He laughs at himself to Cha Jun Sung’s straightforward words. He is right. What is it important where they are from? The world has been in pandemonium for a long time.

He had boarded the ark to get away from that hell, but this place had also turned out to be hell.

“You said that 4 years has gone by? What on earth happened?”

He asked outright. He has no choice if he wants to know the situation with the ark and infected city. The lieutenant froze.

He holds his head and trembles in fear. The events of 4 years back come back like a nightmare. It had left a trauma for a soldier who had experienced all types of hardships.

“Those- those guys!”

They were indeed mutants, but they were more disgusting and cruel. The parasites occupied New Zealand and the islands, and designated them as their own areas.

This ark is one of the hundreds of vessels created by America with the help of its allies. South America had fallen to the Evil Queen.

The few survivors ran away from there as though being chased. They turned the boat’s

direction toward Oceania where there are a lot of islands, since they cannot live on sea forever.

That was the mistake. Just as they had lost to the Evil Queen, one of the islands was losing a war against the parasites.

They quickly got everyone on board and left, but it became irreversible.

“Is the ark safe?”

“We need your help, lieutenant. We discovered the parasites, but they are too few in numbers. It’s as if they aren’t here.

“That should be right.”

“It should be? Then does that mean you know why there are so few?”

“I don’t know, but there are 7 sleeping rooms in addition to this one.”

They had hacked into the system, but he pretended not to know. Hercules did it, but it would just be a bother to explain its artificial intelligence. It is better to hide the fact.

“Huh? Were there 9? Ugh! The parasites! Where did I get to?”

His consciousness came and went, speaking gibberish and then acting like he could not remember anything. His brain is not able to function, whether it is because of the freezing or fear.

He sees the force members armed with bizarre gear, and does not react. He is half out of his mind. It is unsure whether he has gone crazy or has become stupid.

“The para- parasites are inside the bodies of the frozen survivors.”

The lieutenant’s words are shocking. Survivors reaching over 20,000 are hosts? Then even the 1200 people in room 1?

“Is it everyone?”

“That’s not it. About... 0.1% will be uninfected. Keuk keuk!”

The lieutenant is genuinely happy. Is he also a host? Should they kill him?

“I have not been infected.”

“Phew!”

It was like the lieutenant read his mind, and revealed that he is not a host. The force members let out a sigh of relief, but this is not enough.

Cha Jun Sung left Lim Si Hyun to speak with the lieutenant, but went among the force members. The lieutenant said that he is not a host, but those are just words.

“Scan him without his noticing. If he’s infected, set him on fire.”

Zing!

Hercules is linked to the PDA, and its eyes scan the lieutenant. His muscles, bones, and organs come up clearly on the hologram.

A few force members saw what they were doing and thought that it was an obvious step. A host is a ticking time bomb. They need to know for sure.

Hercules did not speak, and sent the information as text. The lieutenant’s information comes up on the PDA, including his estimated age, height, weight, and health condition.

-[Not infected.]

To get to the point, he really is not an infected host. There was just one problem in the information. His body is fine, but his mental state is off.

-[He shows erratic behavior and symptoms of insanity as though he is looking at a ghost. After analyzing his behavior, there is a 99.9% that he is suffering from PTSD. Potential instability.]

Post traumatic stress disorder. When Cha Jun Sung had first gone into the reality version, he also thought he had gone insane with this dream-like reality.

The number of Lifers with PTSD is increasing all over the world. Even if they are mutants, they are living beings. Destruction leads to a lack of emotion.

When they also witness their colleagues being ripped apart, people of weak mentalities cannot help but collapse.

The lieutenant experienced America's destruction, the infected city, and the ark's hell consecutively. He has been eaten up by the terror that was imprinted on his mind then.

'But he hasn't been infected.'

He does not have weapons, and is significantly inferior to the Lifers in physical ability. It does not seem like it will be a big deal to have 1 crazy person make a fuss.

-[According to the scan, he really hasn't been infected but it has been confirmed that he is suffering from PTSD. Looks like we should ask him as much as we can.]

Cha Jun Sung relayed the lieutenant's condition over the general radio. They did not ignore it completely, but the force members thought that it was not a big deal.

"The captain and 7 lieutenants including me took charge of each of the rooms 1 through 8, and froze the people. We were the last."

"How many people were originally on board the ark? What happened?"

"200,000? Or was it 250,000? Over half died in the infected city and more died on the ark... Anyone we couldn't freeze died too! Hee hee!"

Tonga. It is the name of the island they can see about 20km away outside. It is slightly larger than Korea with an area of 747 square km. This is the infected city that the lieutenant is referring to.

"An- another ark anchored at a nearby island, but we lost contact. They're all dead! Are we going to die too? No! Korea dispatched its troops!"

His words twist, but he does give them the information that they want. This is really useful. The more they knew about the ark and infected city, the better.

"Are hosts mixed in sleeping room? Can you tell them apart?"

“There are a lot of them mixed in. He he! Under circumstances, it was difficult to distinguish the host, so I can’t distinguish between them.”

The lieutenant chirped like a bird. He says that when the parasites were introduced to the ark, tens of thousands of people got on the lifeboats to get away.

The remaining people chose to be frozen indefinitely. This was because they had come to find out that parasites do not like the cold.

Freezing an infected host also slowed down the infection rate. They could not tell who was infected and who was not, so they could not kill everyone either.

This was all possible because the soldiers protected the sleeping rooms with their lives so that their families could go through the process. If not, they would have been annihilated.

The sleeping room was created to extend the lives of anyone who came down with a disease or serious wound. They would hang on to their lives until the practices necessary for treatment were discovered.

There were not enough spots because they had not created it while expecting the parasites.

# Chapter 91

“But why did you wake me? Me, in this hell? Why? Why did you wake me! Ack!”

The lieutenant expresses his madness. The force members feel bad for him. They can understand. Not even they could guarantee that they would not have gone crazy in his position.

“Please help us, Lieutenant.”

“You’re asking me to help you?”

“Yes!”

Han Chang Jin is a soldier. He can understand the burden that the lieutenant had felt.

“We are the Special Forces from Korea. Each person is an incredible warrior. If you help us, we can take over the ark again!”

He gushes in words that would be seen in a comic book. The force members put their heads down in embarrassment. For him to say such cheesy things as though it is nothing!

The lieutenant’s eyes grow wide as he looks at the force members. It seems it had an effect. He looks on in admiration, full of anticipation.

“Restore the ark!”

“That’s right.”

“Are we taking the infected city back as well! Korea is going to fight the parasites!”

It felt like this was getting bigger, but Han Chang Jin listened quietly. Now is the ark, but they would complete the infected city later.

“Ah! If we take back the ark, the infected city will be easy!”

The ark is full of gear that could arm a legion class force. The basic weapons are a given, but there are also tanks, armored cars, and fighter planes.

If they had known that Tonga was hell, they would have wiped it out. Without knowing this, they had embarked for the country and gotten in trouble. They will not lose this time. They will win!

“Captain. What are you thinking of doing with the 1199 people frozen in the sleeping rooms?”

A force member asks Han Chang Jin. If the people are mixed together, they all need to be killed whether they distinguish or ignore them. When considering the cases, it is easiest to kill them.

“We need to save them.”

“Seven Stars is against it. Rescuing is good, but there’s no way to distinguish between all of those people. Are you trying to put the force in danger?”

Han Chang Jin looks over at Cha Jun Sung. He looks at Hercules to be precise.

“Huh? I know what you mean, but it can’t. It might be possible if there were just a few people, but scanning thousands of people will use up the entire energy core.”

He brought 10 batteries. With 3, Hercules’ energy core is charged 100%. They need to be used in emergencies. He cannot waste them on scanning.

How could they use all of Hercules’ energy on distinguishing between the people when it has so many uses? It is a matter of saving lives, but what cannot be done cannot be done.

One out of three options had been left out. If they cannot make a distinction, they need to kill or ignore them. This is also an issue. Each has its pros and cons.

They will earn points if they kill infected hosts, but they will also be killing people.

They can distance themselves from guilt if they ignore them, but that would mean they do not earn points and are leaving infection threats as they are.

“There is a way...”

“What?”

“We can lock the capsule, thaw everyone at the same time, and watch the process.”

The lieutenant joined the conversation. It takes a long time, but they only need to be watched for a day. They capture and kill those who are infected, and release anyone who is not.

The capsules are so strong that bullets cannot go through them, so there is no chance that they would be able to escape.

-[I’m against it.]

-[Opposed!]

The cadres oppose it. First, there will be more than 1100 hosts among the 1199 people according to the lieutenant’s explanation.

Even if the capsule is strong, there is a great danger. Second, it is better for everyone not to wake the survivors if the force is going to leave them behind once the mission is complete.

It would be easier to make a choice if the damned helpers would let them know.

“Or we can force everyone to thaw and kill them all.”

Usually, the parasite needs to find a new roost if its host is killed. Since they are in a frozen state however, they would not be able to withstand the forced defrosting.

‘Figure it out amongst yourselves.’

Cha Jun Sung stayed true to his role as a bystander in the opinions going back and forth. This is why it is difficult for decision makers. It is best to follow what he is told to do.



-[Freezer capsule numbers 1 through 1199 are being thawed. 5 minutes until thawed. The temperature of the sleeping rooms is being raised to the normal temperature.]

The force chose to collectively thaw. The lieutenant's opinion played a great role in this.

'I'll do my best to help you, so just help us get the ark back from the parasites. Then we will figure out how to live on our own.'

As long as there are no parasites, they can live in the middle of the sea. They decided to send the survivors to the bunker. They would be able to last months because there are so few of them.

The survivors and infected wake up. They are all out of it and act exactly as the lieutenant did at first. With time, their vision gains focus.

They did not seem to be able to recognize the situation properly. The force members stood still in one place. It is better to let them realize for themselves.

"Ack! It's a parasite!"

"Ack!"

As soon as the word 'parasite' came from capsule number 755, the entire place fell into confusion. It had not really appeared. They have been frozen in time for 4 years.

Since the past 4 years is the same as 1 second to these people, their memories are continuing from that point. Their fear had progressed rather than diminished.

"Get me out!"

"They're coming! Run away!"

Bang bang!

They bang on the capsule. They are not able to come out of the border between reality and their dreams. They do not show signs of becoming better. It becomes worse.

-[Can you hear?]

The lieutenant turned on the microphone in the machinery. Then he spoke to the survivors in the capsule. When they heard noise, some of the fuss was reduced.

“Who is it!”

“Please!”

“Open this door!”

-[This is 3rd Lieutenant, Andre. I was thawed a little before you all were.]

“Ah!”

“Lieutenant!”

“What about the parasites? What happened to us? Are you okay?”

There must be a few sane people, because they speak normally. The lieutenant gave them a death sentence.

-[Listen well.]

‘4 years have passed since we have been frozen. The ark is still occupied. We woke you up to figure out who is infected and who is not.’

-[Stay for just a day. If you have parasites in your body, they will act soon.]

“Asshole!”

“Let us out!”

Swearing is rampant. They guarantee that they are not hosts, but the lieutenant is sure that most of those people are already infected.

1 hour, 2 hours, 5 hours, 10 hours. Whether the survivors were fired out or had accepted the reality, they stopped expressing their feelings externally, and kept to themselves.

4 years ago, the parasite was introduced in their drinking water. They had quickly filtered it, but it was after the parasite had already spread. Anyone who drank the water before that were infected without exception.

“Huh?”

A man in capsule number 155 lowers his head as he feels something in his stomach. Something is wriggling. Then he feels abdominal pain.

“My st- stomach is weird!”

“Me too!”

“Ack!”

Parasites do not kill their hosts. They take nutrients during their incubation period and move to the brain once they are adults. They need to steer.

This is also different by case. If the situation is severe, they skip the nutrients and secure the brain from the start. They also received nutrients from parasites of the same level.

“It’s started.”

The lieutenant mumbles. The survivors are experiencing the parasites maturing into adults and moving into the brain. This part just needs to pass.

-[Get into position from number 1.]

-[Yes!]

The force members went in front of the capsule when they heard Lim Si Hyun and Han Chang Jin’s command. If there are symptoms, they will be apparent to the eye as well.

The expressions of the force members looking at capsule number 1 distort strangely. A bright blue vein rises on the survivors’ faces with weird bumps in them.

Their eyes roll back and a yellow liquid seeps from between their lips.

-[If there is a change, adjust the flame thrower’s compression. If there isn’t a change, wait for a bit longer. Don’t just trust the capsule and stay alert.]

There is compression and jet on the flame thrower. The compression makes it go out in a straight line like with welding, and it is advantageous when fighting a small number of enemies.

The level 1 parasites living in these weak bodies would melt just by being touched.

Ack!

Bang bang!

The hosts whose brains had been seized banged on the glass as though they would break through it. They had no chance because it is bulletproof, but they cannot help but feel aversion.

-[Open it and melt them.]

As soon as the force members pressed the button outside, the capsule opened and the hosts ran at them. Before they could take 2 steps, they were cooked.

## Chapter 92

The power of the flames were so strong that they were pushed back to the capsule. Even while they were screaming, they did their best to try to advance.

They left the survivors without change, locked in the capsule. They will be released once this is all taken care of. It will become a problem if they are released and change later.

Burning the hosts went smoothly. Even if the outside was burned, the inside may not be, so Hercules followed after and finished the job up.

Parasites come jumping out of the hosts that are burned black. Hercules caught them instantly and popped them. They really are disgusting.

They did not neglect the clean up because there could not be a single mistake. They need to avoid letting even 1 go that could infect a force member.

Several hours passed. 90% of the 1199 capsules were done. Now, they only have 1 more leg to go. There are only 17 survivors left.

No matter how much they search through sleeping rooms 2 through 8, it seems it would be difficult to reach over 200 people. According to the lieutenant, the uninfected would not be more than 0.1%. This might as well be annihilation.

“Huh?”

The force members look at capsule number 1156 and are puzzled. They do appear to be hosts, but their behavior patterns are different from the 9 they killed before.

The others tried to break open the capsule, but these guys are just staring. It feels weird because they are glaring with their bloodshot eyes.

“What are you looking at?”

He got close to the bulletproof glass and taunted the host.

Kya!

The host opens its mouth. Is it angry? It acted special, but it reacted to the provocation. There! Try making a fuss.

It did not take even 0.1 seconds. A parasite flew out of the host's mouth, penetrated the bulletproof glass, and flooded the force member's face.

The force member's body bends reflexively. The 2nd stage of his body modifications helped him barely avoid the tentacles' attack.

He would have already become a host if he had been in the conditions of his beginner days.

"Da-damn!"

The force went back in a cold sweat. They do not have the courage to go forward and press the button. They had almost lost their lives with an involuntary provocation.

After a bit of noise, the force members' attention was directed to capsule number 1156. It cannot be an ordinary parasite if it can get through bulletproof glass.

-[Avoid it!]

Lim Si Hyun yelled. Avoid it? When they avoided it already? The force members did not understand, and they were losing consciousness when they did.

The host's tentacles inflated and a parasite flew out of the hole at the end. It is a dark brown.

It is comparable just in appearance to the clear or white parasites.

As soon as it spit out the brown parasite, the host's skin crumbled and withered like that of an elderly person. Eventually, it became flaccid and died.

It had already gathered all of the nutrients from the host.

The brown parasite went into the metal armor. It did not penetrate it. It is body armor, but there are holes for ventilation to make action easier.

The parasite had attacked one of those. It could not get through the strong impact tights and traveled up, entering orally and heading straight for the brain.

The host was hidden by the metal armor and started to go through abnormal transitions.

If a good seed meets a good field, the fruition must also be good. The Lifer who had been remodeled with body modifications is the best ingredient for the parasite.

“It’s too late to save him!”

“Kill him!”

While it was transitioning, the force members used the flamethrower on the host. The flames covered the metal armor, but the transition did not stop.

The material itself is strong against heat and cold and he even has the impact tights, so the effect is weak. It is unbelievable that a mutant is benefiting from their gear.

“Hercules! Take care of it!”

“Kill the enemy!”

Hercules hits off from the ground and rushes. When the force members saw Hercules charge like a bull, they quickly left the site.

Bang bang!

It struck the metal armor with its shoulder. The host flew 10m and hit the wall. There was not much damage and it stood up right away.

Hercules put pressure on the host’s neck and chest, scanned its insides with its eyes, and tried to rip the metal armor off with its hands.

Zing!

The scanning results are delivered through the hologram. The mutation process is included. A thread-like, brown parasite made roots in the brain.

It is abnormal as though looking at a living being rather than a brain.

As it was infected by the parasite, the physical ability multiplied. Numerically speaking, it is similar to Cha Jun Sung or Park Jin Hyuk.

“It’s at least a level 3.”

“At most a level 4.”

Cha Jun Sung and Koharu face each other. Since parasites are not mutants with constant shape, it is hard to make a distinction just from appearances.

According to the stats shown on the hologram, the mutation is in progress from level 3. It can evolve with rich nutrients and time.

The host kicked at Hercules’ temple hard with its foot. The power was strong and made Hercules let go.

Kiki!

The host takes a stance like a human. It is awkward, but it is not behavior that a mutant should be showing. This is the fear of parasites.

Parasites dominate their hosts’ brains. Humans have the highest intellect in the world. Inevitably, they will advance as much.

It has the memories of when the host was human, and uses what it knows.

A restriction per se is that it uses the host’s brain less if it is of a lower level and more if it is at a higher level. If it is level 3 or 4, it will use the brain at least a little.

-[Metal armor shock absorber, breakage rate under 1.5%. Mutant level, level 3.]

Hercules relaxes its neck after being hit, and gives the mutant a level.

Intermediate or lower. If it were the Slayer, there would be 5% damage and more. It is still impressive. A bug had changed a person into a level 3 mutant.

Kyak!

Papat!

The host avoids Hercules. It went up against Hercules once and realized that it cannot win. It is agile and not easily caught.

Huh?

There is a change in the hologram. The brown parasite that fused with the brain divides into hundreds. Then they came out through the host's mouth.

Papapapat!

The parasites as small as ants spread all over the floor and enter the mouths of the burnt hosts. What are they trying to do inside dead bodies?

Chomp chomp.

They are eating the corpses. They exclude the burnt parts and eat away at the rest. The force members were swinging the flamethrowers around even more because of their aversion to the effect on the brain.

The parasites avoided the flames and repeated their actions several times. They grew bigger and bigger. After a while, they were the size of a human fist.

They killed most of the parasites, but dozens of them avoided the bullets and flames to survive. They had the vitality of cockroaches.

"Do I need to get involved?"

Pew pew!

Park Jin Hyuk hit the parasites with his Head Hunter. It was like a turtle was crawling. There were so many that he could not kill all of them and missed half.

They hear the sound of something being chewed. The host chews and eats the parasites. This is how it makes up for the nutrients it lacks. The serious part comes next.

The host trusts its metal armor, and walks around to eat the dead parasites. It seems it does not matter whether they are dead or alive.

Kyak!

The host roared, pressed the release button, and took the metal armor off.

It had used the force member's memory. The impact tights are swollen. Its bulky muscles and veins are showing through the thick fibers.

The lieutenant's nightmares had come alive again. He ran away behind the force members, and goes in a frenzy to the survivors in the capsule. A few even fainted.

The host went around, hiding in places with cover.

It knows what guns and flamethrowers are, and it moved while predicting the paths for attack. They cannot set off bombs because the force has gathered to a small space.

Tatak!

Then it glances over the force from dozens of meters away, on the ceiling.

-[Everyone get out.]

Cha Jun Sung radios in. He cannot fight properly because there are too many Lifers.

-[Are you saying we should ignore it?]

-[This is a space where we cannot attack together. Let's leave it to Hercules.]

They cannot win fully, but he had brought some equipment that he needs. He believes that he can repair the damage one or two times.

-[Alright.]

-[We're going outside.]

Lim Si Hyun sent the force to the entrance. Survivors were kept in the capsules. They mean to keep the time since they need to be watched for a day.

The impact tights could not withstand the strength of the inflation, and ripped little by little.

It does not reach 4m in size, but the tentacles all over its body writhe like snakes. It is certain that anyone caught on those will become a host.

“I’ll stay.”

“What?”

Lim Si Hyun and the force are surprised when Cha Jun Sung speaks. If he stays here and Hercules loses, he will die or become infected, which would only exacerbate the situation.

“I need to remain if I am to give detailed instructions. Don’t worry.”

They will combine their power and get rid of it quickly. It is not like Cha Jun Sung to drag it on for a long time.

“We’ll leave it to you.”

Lim Si Hyun closed the door. Inside the capsule are only Cha Jun Sung, Hercules, the host, and the survivors. The environment had become suitable for battle.

“You won’t come down?”

Kihik!

The host has no thoughts of coming down from the ceiling. It is thinking about how it can infect the survivors who are locked up in the capsule.

“What are you thinking about so hard? If you don’t come down, I’m going up.”

Pang!

Cha Jun Sung steps on the wall and stairs and bursts through the air.

Hercules also started up the booster under its feet. It is one level 4 against the 2. There is an obvious outcome, but they cannot avoid battle.

# Chapter 93

Pang pang!

The tentacles are great as weapons for attack in addition to infecting others. They split the air like a whip and tickle Cha Jun Sung's ears.

As soon as it grazed an iron pipe, it cut as if cutting through paper.

He had been saving his points, but also purchased metal armor. It might have been different before, but he does not get cut up from being hit a few times now.

"This thing is only going after me."

The host is cunning. It knows that Cha Jun Sung is weaker than Hercules. It also knows that he is a living being that can be infected.

So it only goes after Cha Jun Sung. It attacked Hercules as a diversion tactic, but it was not particularly threatening. Their abilities are pretty much on the same level. Since it does not work, their methods are changed from the beginning.

If Hercules is to fight the Destroyer again, the odds are 50/50. Parasites are similar since they can infect. It is a matter of ability.

"This rat!"

Woong!

The Wolf Kill's attack radius becomes smaller. He is swinging it short. Since the host is fast, large movements will provide it gaps for attack. Blocking its approach is best.

Parasites come out of its tongue. It is the method it used to infect the force member. Cha Jun Sung put down the Wolf Kill and took care of them quickly with a dagger.

It is the dagger that he received in the tutorial, but he kept it because it came in useful at times.

Hercules flew the buster at the host's side. This force broke the bone and it fell as its side became depressed.

Pew pew pew pew!

Cha Jun Sung went at the host with the red fire. If it is wounded, it will use its nutrients to try to heal. If they culminate, the host cannot ignore them.

Hercules changed the flamethrower function into a spray and set fire to a wider area. If the flamethrower is left on compression, it is easier for the host to avoid it with its speed.

"Whew! This is exhausting."

Fatigue from the pressure of becoming infected with just a graze and a concentrated attack was considerable.

Cha Jun Sung hid behind Hercules. He had given it enough wounds. There is still a long way to go. He cannot use all of his strength on this 1 mutant.

"If this is this bad, is the source stronger? Well, I guess it could be a hatchery too."

Even as an infestor, it is not created out of nothing. Something must be hatching them. They need to get rid of that to restore the ark.

Cha Jun Sung threw a fever shot at the host that was being pushed back. At the right timing, he took Hercules out. If Hercules gets swept, he will need to spend more on parts.

Kyak!

"It's burning well!"

When the infestors realize that they cannot live in the host, they come out, burn, and die. It is extremely gross. They are worse than cockroaches.

-[You have earned 20,000 points and 8,000 achievement points.]

Wow!

Was it top level? It must be a level assigned due to the difficulty of attack rather than its body strength. Regardless, it had increased his achievement points by 40%.

It must be because he was active in the battle and he had wrapped it up in the end. If he had done it all on his own, he might have been able to increase his points by 50%.

Cha Jun Sung was about to open the door when he looked at the survivors. They were surprised and avoided his eyes. It did not seem like they would say anything about what they saw.

He told Lim Si Hyun's group that the battle was over. The inside was taken care of.

In a full day, they rescued 17 plus 2 for a total of 19 survivors from sleeping room 1. They will have to work hard if they are to take care of rooms 2 through 9 as well.



A few hours after the force left, a small change occurred in sleeping room 1. It was such a small change that they would not have realized even if they had been there.

A brown parasite millimeters long, as thin as a strand of hair, came out of the dead level 4 host's skull. It had endured the heat.

It did live, but it is not completely safe. It had laid an egg as the main body was burned, so its vitality shook like a candlelight.

Helpers are only almighty in the system, and cannot do anything about mutants. They had given Cha Jun Sung the points thinking that they had all died.

They were not mistaken. The brown parasite would die after a few days.

Parasites hang on to their lives as much as they can even if they are barely alive in order to alert the emergence of enemies.

Kik!

The infestor takes in nutrients. It eats away as it pleases because there are no barriers. It needs to build up its body. It cannot move a long distance in its current state.

The infestor looked around for a way out once it was as big as a pinky. The freezer

mode was released. All it needs is a small hole.

The infestor went into a hole in a pipe. It decided on the place that was giving off the smell of its parent object as its destination, and crawled.

It is a far journey for an infestor. As it went, it would find that it is on the wrong path. However, it did not give up. Even if it had to go back, it advanced at least a little.

It is warm. As it gets closer to its parent object, its body grows warmer. It is a place with a temperature suitable for parasites to live in.

Thump.

As soon as it heard this sound, the infestor felt relief and let go of its lifeline. It had finally arrived where it had been born.

Something approaches the dead infestor. It is a tentacle as thick as a snake. The tentacle absorbed the infestor as though praising its efforts.

Humans relay information through methods like media or language. Mutants? There are various ways that they can do this as well.

When parasites absorb their subordinates, they can read their memories.

They cannot relay the minor details like humans can, but expression of something like 'A strong enemy threatening the east appeared' is possible.

They get rid of anything superfluous and take in the main point.

Keureung!

The mutant that absorbed the infestor is an infection pocket as big as a truck.

It is the source occupying the ark. The brown species is the highest level that this infection pocket can produce. It had not produced even 10 over 4 years.

2 were sacrificed when taking over the ark, and 3 are missing. 4 were resurrected to keep with it. They are there to send out when necessary.

But 1 of the missing 3 had come back after 4 years. It had come back dying in order to

tell it that an enemy had appeared in their habitat.

The infection pocket squeezed out nutrients and injected them into the 4 brown infestors. The existence of enemies is dangerous, but it is also a relief.

Near the infection pocket, there is a mountain of bones with holes all over them. Even though it is a large space, there are so many bones that it makes movement difficult.

Parasites are living beings as well. They need to eat to live. They used the people they caught on the ark as nutrients instead of turning them into hosts.

Even that is coming to its limits. They do not have enough food. They know that there are a lot of people in the freezer sleeping rooms, but they will die if they enter.

It collected infestors to maintain its body as well. Is the saying that crisis is an opportunity? It is the perfect way to describe the situation for the infection pocket.

The 4 brown infestors shake off the mucus and wriggle. It is a rainfall. They are as big as a human thigh. They had reaped the benefits of the nutrients.

Kyak!

Papat!

The infestors received their orders and sank into the darkness. The force members who do not know of this, go around the sleeping room and are busy rescuing survivors.

# Chapter 94

The acrid smell of burning bodies fills the sleeping rooms. The hosts locked up in the capsules were held by flamethrowers. If the flamethrowers were fired, they died.

It only took a few days to get through rooms 1 through 8. It is because they were being directed by the lieutenant who knows the ark's layout well.

Other than the frozen parasites, there were not many of them. They were weak enough at levels 2 and 3 that they could be captured without issues as long as the force members were careful.

The parasites in the sleeping rooms are basic infestors and brown infestors.

On their way to room 8, they had come across 2 more brown infestors. Since they had experienced the brown species once before, they were not provoked by unusual objects.

They took care of them by calling Hercules before the infestors could mutate. They gave 1600 points, but it seems they were judged highly because of the danger of infection.

They moved busily, but fortunately no one died after the first member. They are even suspicious that this really is a level D mission.

Whew!

There are 73 rescued survivors from room 8. Just as the capacity is large with 3000, there are also a lot of survivors. That also means there were as many hosts.

Excluding the lieutenant, with the 73 people from room 8 and 242 people being protected in the bunker, there is a total of 316 people, exceeding the first prediction of 200.

Encroached with intense fear, they all show signs of mental instability. The people experiencing severity are delirious. They have gone insane.

“So we’ve saved all of them.”

“I think so.”

“We need to find the source... Where are the warm places?”

It is the same in the virtual and reality versions, but parasites like warm places. How many places like that would there be on this vast ark?

The lieutenant says that right before the captain was frozen 4 years ago, he adjusted the main system to leave only the basic power and cut off the rest.

There will not be many warm places because though there is a central heating system, it is inevitable for the chill to seep in unless it is a location deep in the ark.

It would have been good if the captain had survived, but there were only 2 survivors among him and the 7 lieutenants. 1 person had even become insane with fear.

Due to this, the only commander level person who could dictate on the ark realistically, is the lieutenant.

“If you activate the main system, you will be able to locate the source.”

Inside the ark are sensors to detect intruders and CCTVs. If that function is restored, it will be easy to find the place where the source is hiding.

‘It’s unstable to leave the ark to them. Strictly speaking, isn’t the lieutenant crazy as well?’

Cha Jun Sung is thinking. Even an aircraft carrier is tiny compared to the ark. It is a resolution and a complete strategic weapon with the force of a nation.

To hand this over whole? Cha Jun Sung and the force cannot claim ownership over the ark, but they have the right to help or not.

There is a point to restoring the main system as the lieutenant said.

But Cha Jun Sung thinks it would be better to look everywhere even if it takes more time and is crude. He can pretend to be fine, but a crazy person is a crazy person.

Among the 316 survivors, there are also 70 soldiers. They supported 3 parties from the force and brought out weapons from the armory.

The force is currently divided into threes. 3 parties are protecting the survivors in the bunker. With the level 4 in mind, Park Jin Hyuk stayed behind.

Another 3 parties took the role of carrying weapons, food, and other necessities to the bunker from storage, along with 50 of the sane soldiers.

Lastly, the 4 parties with Cha Jun Sung had been in the role of rescuing survivors from the freezer, but they were returning after saving everyone.

They had told them that they would create their own armed forces and lend help in repairing the ark over time, but they cannot say that they are allies outright.

If their opinions do not coincide and they become enemies, there will be a 3-way battle between the Lifers, survivors, and mutants.

“Oy. They’ll figure it out for themselves.”

It is a headache. Lim Si Hyun and Han Chang Jin are not stupid either. Rather, they are smart and wise. They will make a good judgment.



Bunkers are normally thought of as large public spaces that can only hold people, but the bunker on the ark is not like that.

It is a space that is blocked off on all sides with sturdy walls. It is large as well. The difference is that the inside is divided into hundreds as though they are apartments.

To describe it? A hive? Yes, it is like a hive. It is indeed a bunker, but it is state-of-the-art to optimize it for people to live in. To put it simply, it can be lived in.

“It’s split in half.”

“There are pros and cons to restoring the main system and searching the ark. It is iffy to decide what is good and what is bad. Opinions are divided as well.”

Seven Stars is saying they should search the ark even if it extends the time until the

mission is completed.

On the other hand, the government wants to restore the main system to open up a way for the survivors to live. Since they already started helping out, they wanted to do it properly.

The lieutenant is not here. This is something that would not be good for him to hear.

“Cha Jun Sung, what do you think?”

“I am also reluctant to leave the main system in the control of a crazy person.”

He responded honestly to Lim Si Hyun’s question. But Han Chang Jin did not go over it simply.

“Are you saying that you will return right away once the mission is complete?”

That is right. Han Chang Jin is looking at the end. He is at the crossroads of helping the survivors or abandoning them once the mission is over.

He wants to restore the main system at one time instead of going back and forth multiple times. Then they will be able to return comfortably.

“Isn’t this a case of do you like your mom or dad?”

“Let’s just divide into search, restore, and protection parties to distribute roles.”

Jung Hye Ryung speaks up. It is a good idea, but it would break down their power too much. If the parasite attacks one place, they could be annihilated.

“If this situation continues, it is better to divide as that woman said.”

Neither of the groups are willing to give in. They are both saying, ‘You give up.’ If they are going to drag this out, splitting up and moving separately is the shortcut to reducing friction.

“Let’s have Seven Stars search the ark, and the government restore the main system.”

“Who will guard the bunker?”

Jung Hye Ryung pointed to the armed soldiers outside.

The force cannot protect them forever. They need to know how to protect themselves. Since anything can happen, wouldn't it be okay to have 1 party remain?

"Should my party stay behind?"

"Cha Jun Sung, you need to join in either the search or the restoration."

Lim Si Hyun said that he cannot. He sees Cha Jun Sung's abilities as similar to their own. Therefore, there is no problem to have him out.

It is just that they need to take Hercules no matter what, since it is able to fight against a level 4. This is of direct relation to their lives. They cannot give it up to the restoration party.

"Hercules will support the search, and I will join the main."

It will be temporary, but Hercules will obey someone else's orders if they are input into the system.

Lim Si Hyun feels assured. No matter how they look at it, the search is more dangerous than the main. They need to kill the source if they discover it. That is difficult to do with 40 people.

"If that is the decision, the government will leave 1 party behind."

Once they each gave in a little, the meeting progressed smoothly. They decided to go in half a day, and Cha Jun Sung continued to keep Park Jin Hyuk at the bunker.

# Chapter 95

90 people leave the bunker. The Lieutenant went with the main, and a colonel lieutenant ranked soldier went with the search. They need to be directed through the ark.

“Be careful.”

“Are you comfortable?”

“Hah... I can't express it! It's heaven! Play and eat, I'll pass on the next.”

Park Jin Hyuk gives Cha Jun Sung a taunting look. How good is it to not be moving? All he has to do is stay in the bunker and hang out.

Park Jin Hyuk also knows why he is staying behind. If a level 4 appears, he needs to stop it. Anything below that is up to the party and soldiers.

“I'll leave her to you.”

“Sure. Koharu, be careful.”

“Yeah!”

Kyoko smiles and waves her hand. They have a 4 year age difference and they get along well.

They seem to be developing a good relationship. Koharu must also like Park Jin Hyuk, because she does not care. The search party and restoration party are getting farther away.

Park Jin Hyuk watched from the bunker entrance and went inside. He does not work as a guard. Seven Stars and the government had been considerate to an extent.

Seureuk.

“...?”

Park Jin Hyuk was about to close the bunker door when he turned his head. A faint sound passed by his ear. He could barely hear it with his enhanced hearing.

Bump.

9 parties disappear far away. He thought that he had heard it from a close distance, but he must have mistaken the footsteps of 90 people and their chatter.

Park Jin Hyuk smiled and went in. He had joked to Cha Jun Sung, but it would be a lie if he said that he did not feel burdened by having to protect the bunker.

It is in a high gap dozens of meters away from the bunker. An odd creature with a fat and wrinkled body and thick fur is looking down.

It is a brown infestor. It is difficult to identify due to its dark coat and the dark environment. Of course the reverse is easy.

It had almost been discovered by Park Jin Hyuk whose body sensations are abnormally enhanced.

4 of them are stuck to each other. The brown infestors had followed the force all the way here by their scent. But there is a problem.

There are too many enemies. They may not be able to make rational decisions like humans do, but they have instincts as mutants.

They know that these humans wearing strange shells have considerable power. The infection pocket had shared the knowledge it received from the brown infestor with them.

The 4 contemplated. If they become adults and emerge, they can fight somehow. But it is impossible to do with these weak bodies.

Average infestors cannot divide or create offspring at will. The only species capable of that is the infection pocket. This is similar for the brown infestors.

Brown ones can create the average and brown infestors, but they are born without the reproductive function which makes it so that they cannot breed.

If infinite breeding had been possible, would the level 4 infection pocket have created

just the 4 of them? They can be expressed as the body and alter ego.

The brown infestors each used a small amount of nutrients and created offspring.

There are 20 of just the brown species. They found the path to penetrate the bunker, but they are too big to enter. They will need to send these instead.

The offspring scatter. They need to go into the bunker, find a host, and quickly open the door. After, the main bodies will take care of the rest.



The bunker is calm among the unrest regarding the parasites. 316 of the 20,000 people who had been frozen in sleep had survived, for a survival rate of 1.5%.

Normally? There had been about 250,000 people on board the ark. Calculating with this as the basis, it is lowered from 1.5% to around 0.12%.

It is not annihilation, but it might as well be. Even though it happened 4 years ago, they remember the events as if they happened yesterday so they cannot help but be nervous.

“Hee hee! We’re all going to die!”

“I want to die!”

Park Jin Hyuk pitied the survivors. Is that really living? There is no difference from being dead. Their families became hosts and ripped people apart to eat them?

It is pure hell. Pure hell. There are not even 100 people who are completely sane. It is to the point where they cannot lead normal lives in society.

The force was designated to an area where it is easy to manage the survivors’ dormitories.

Seeing them all together, it is more like looking at a mental hospital. Without exaggeration, there is even someone who is smearing feces on the wall.

“Grandma, would you like to take a walk?”

“Yeah yeah!”

A young man takes the old woman’s hand and goes. He looks to be her grandson.

The grandmother’s condition is not good. It is confusing whether she has Alzheimer’s or if she has gone crazy. The young man takes glances at Park Jin Hyuk and keeps their distance. He seems to be scared.

He must be since Park Jin Hyuk caught the parasites without fear. Park Jin Hyuk did not really pay attention either. In situations like this, other people are just borders.

The party that the government left behind split into pairs to watch the bunker entrances. The soldiers either supported them or guarded other spots.

Half of the dorm is at attention. There is nothing that takes priority over life.

“I need to rest too.”

He dropped out of working the guard. He cannot sleep because he would feel bad to the force. He needs to sharpen his blades to take on whatever it is that could come at any time.



The offspring use all of their strength. They are smaller than millets, but it is not easy for them to enter. A wall made of concrete and steel is blocking the front.

After struggling through the passageway that the main bodies discovered however, they succeeded in entering. It was a tank that changed rainwater into drinking water.

They had targeted the tiny openings in the filter.

The offspring were cooped up in a corner and moved together. They are in such a hidden place that no one would be able to see them unless they were explicitly looking for them.

“Grandma, just wait a little. We’ll be able to go back to how it was before.”

The offspring stop moving. A living being suitable for infection is approaching. There are 2 of them. They are moving camouflage without the need to die.

The offspring jumped onto the clothes of the man and old woman, digging through their skins. Though they are small, there is bound to be pain since they are ripping through the skin.

The man pulled up the clothes from his side because of the pain. A red patch had formed as though he had popped a pimple. The grandmother was still blank as though she had not felt anything.

“No... no!”

The man’s face turned blue. It couldn’t be? It cannot be. It could not be the aura of the infection he saw 4 years ago. This is a dream. A nightmare.

The surprised man’s thoughts are paralyzed. The offspring went up to his brain, took in the nutrients, grew sharply in size, and took over the brain.

It happened within moments. His grandmother showed similar symptoms. It is the transition into an infection host.

The change happened in a quiet place, silently. The offspring paced the progress as slowly as they could so that the bodies could not show rejection.

10 minutes passed. The hosts open their eyes. The man is all set up to become a mutant at any time, but it is not working on the grandmother.

The cells that configure the body have aged and are on the verge of rotting. They had infected her because they were in a rush, but she is unqualified.

They would need to use her as a place to hide until they find a healthy host to move into.

18 offspring hide themselves amicably inside the host.

Inside the man, 1 of the offspring fuses with another. The offspring’s limit is level 2, but they can become level 3 if they fuse.

They are becoming adults. It is something that they cannot do without a host, so they need to find infection targets to suck the nutrients out of them.

The hosts walk. They know where the infection targets are. They need to get the main

bodies inside the bunker. To do that, they need strength.

# Chapter 96

Another victim changed into a host. The offspring did not get greedy and only took a minority. Like this, they went from 2 hosts to creating 5 more.

They had eaten the old woman up a long time ago. She is useless because she is so old. The offspring fused 2 into 1, so they became a total of 3 adults.

“What are you doing here?”

“Go back.”

When the hosts approached the bunker entrance, a few soldiers tried to stop them. Their goal is to open the door, so there is no reason for them to stop. The atmosphere is becoming cold.

The party made up of Lifers came with their flamethrowers and had the soldiers go back. It could be that they are crazy and unable to speak, but they have a feeling.

“This.”

“I’m getting a bad premonition. If you come any closer, I’ll cook you.”

A party member turned the flamethrower on. A red flame flicked out and grazed the floor. Did they feel threatened? They stopped.

Keureuk!

Their eyes meet and they get a feel for each other. The party members that they are hosts, the hosts that they have been caught. The actions to take after?

Wiing!

A soldier did not think and rang the siren. It is an emergency. Hosts entered the bunker. The party members prepared for battle as well.

“Why now?”

“There are few of them.”

They had been crept up on, but it is not a desperate situation. It does not seem like the inside has been compromised. If it had, there would have been chaos. There are just 3 of them.

“Too too!”

“Infestors!”

“Get down!”

The host that spit out 14 brown infestors sheds the human. The sound of bones breaking with the body twisting in a bizarre manner.

“That!”

“Level 4!”

The party members stutter. It is similar to the level 4 parasite that they had fought in sleeping room 1. The only difference is that it is a bit smaller.

The party members avoided the infestors with their enhanced senses, but the soldiers could not do the same. 7 hosts are going through transition.

“Fry them!”

Bang!

1 of the 3 hosts that completed transitioning first got to the party within seconds, and hit a member’s stomach. He went rolling back as though flying from the incredible strength.

He avoided instant death with his metal armor, impact tights, and body modification.

9 people launched their flamethrowers. The survivors started screaming from the dorms after detecting the noise. They have recalled their nightmares of the past.

A long and sharp tentacle licks out like a sword. The party members focus and run around to avoid it. From experience, it is just under level 4. It is a level 3.

“Damn it! Hey! Are you dead?”

“Ugh! Shut up!”

The party member who had been hit by the host rubs his stomach and joins the formation. At the same time, the 7 hosts completed their transition.

“It’s 10 to 10.”

The number of hosts and the number of party members is the same. The problem is quality. The quantity might be the same, but there is a huge difference in level. These people cannot win against level 3 mutants 1 to 1.

On top of that, one of the party members is a medic. He falls behind in battle. They are on a hinge.

“Did you radio in?”

“It’s frozen.”

A characteristic of the ark makes it so that their radios do not work once they reach a certain distance. To put it simply, getting support is a wish that will only come true in their dreams.

“The bunker isn’t safe either. How did they get in here?”

Bang!

The hosts were about to turn to look at the noise behind them when they fell back from an incredible force from the front.

“You?”

“You, you did that in one hit?”

“Ah. You guys don’t mind me and guard the bunker. From what the hosts are doing, it looks like they’re trying to open the door.”

Park Jin Hyuk does not undermine mutants. He has seen and experienced too much to do that. He needs to accept these as a type of extra-terrestrial intelligence as well.

Kyak!

“Huh? I hit them with all of my strength, but they healed already? So you’re level 3?”

He had hit with his foot, covered in a metal armor made of steel. And that was with all of his strength. If it had been a level 1 or 2, it would have died instantly.

“Shall we play?”

Papat!

Park Jin Hyuk holds the Head Hunter and withdraws. He provoked the hosts. Just 2 of them follow him. He is just a snack.

“You guys can’t.”

Tang tang!

Park Jin Hyuk avoids attacks from the tentacles and brought in the attention of more of them. Then, 3 more that had been attacked ran at him. There are 5 now.

5 level 3 mutants. He needs to face them properly to find out if it is too much or not, but there is nothing he can do even if it is too much. If he cannot do it, they all die.

The hosts fight and try to break the entrance. Park Jin Hyuk’s prediction was correct. They are not the main body, but the alter ego. The main bodies are outside.

‘Listen well. Parasites have their own shapes, so it was difficult to figure out their levels even in the virtual version. There is one distinction.’

It is what Cha Jun Sung had told him. The ability to infect is a basic ability given to the race, but only the main body is allowed to breed.

The 10 level 3s creating a mess right now are alter egos, so they cannot breed. That means that if they kill them now, they are putting out an imminent fire.

“Guard the entrance and take them on 2 people to 1! Soldiers, please support! Ugh! They can’t get the entrance open no matter what! Then it’s all over!”

The party members avoid the hosts while taking action to show that they understand.

Even if they do not say it, they will put their lives on the line to fight. Their only choices are to kill the 10 or to hold out until the force returns.



While the bunker was battling the infection hosts, the restoration team was reaching the main system at the stem. There were no mutants on their way there.

Not even 1 had come out. Is this really an advance mission? It is falling flat. They are just tense without the appearance of stimulating factors.

However, this is because of Cha Jun Sung's party. If it were not for that party, they would have experienced incredible damages with the level 4 that appeared in the beginning.

'The difference with Slayer's Prison and Dead Ark – a hidden motive?'

With nothing to do, he just has more straying thoughts. It is pretty good for passing the time.

Cha Jun Sung thought deeply. Could it be that the location decided on by helpers is calculated not just by difficulty but also by potential? It is entirely possible.

There were almost 20,000 of the parasites that they encountered in the freezers. What if they had turned the freezer system off by ignorance and hatched them?

Since they are like a germ-like species, they would have spread in the blink of an eye.

If they had not handled it, a festival would have opened. An infection festival. It is the same with the source that they have not yet found, but the points could have also been decided with the risk factor in ind.

It is the same reasoning for Slayer's Prison. A special mission had been superimposed, making it a level D advance mission. Regardless of how strong a Destroyer is, there was just 1.

If they went with the force that entered the ark, it would have been completed within moments. Measurements of mission points are not absolute, but relative.

Slayer's Prison was matched to Cha Jun Sung's group to give them that many points.

Looking at the mission alone, it is hard to say that it is worth 20,000 points.

Thinking about it like this, there has to be something to the Dead Ark where 100 people have entered for a formal advance mission. Whether it is a potential risk or another.

“Are we far?”

“We’re almost there. Since this is the 4th floor, we just have to go down 3 floors.”

The Lieutenant responds to Han Chang Jin’s question. The main system is not at the top where they can see the panoramic view of the fairway, but under.

The ark was created to separate as a submarine in the case of an emergency. They had not been able to do this 4 years ago because their path was blocked.

Going without any obstacles, they went down 3 floors in less than an hour. The path is complex. If they did not have someone escorting them, it would have taken them days.

“This is it.”

A simple door blocks the party. The Lieutenant approaches the door.

Beep beep.

The automatic functions were off so everything had to be done manually, but the Lieutenant did what he needed to without complaints. The main system will soon be restored.

How much does he anticipate this? The ark that had been taken by parasites 4 years ago is being returned to human hands.

[Manual code entry. Auxiliary power operated. Headquarters will be opened in 10 seconds.]

Is the main system in the headquarters? It is a fitting term.

The door opened and they saw everything in the room. It is like a spaceship cockpit. There are hundreds of computers alone, and all types of things.

The Lieutenant went up the stairs. It is obviously the central hub.

“I will begin now.”

“Yes.”

The Lieutenant took out 5 strange cards from the backpack he brought. They are the captain and lieutenants’ recognition cards, that would be able to recover the main system.

He is not the captain. He can turn on the main system with his authority, but he cannot take over the position as captain on his own.

The captain and lieutenants each have a card, so they can override the captain if a majority are in agreement. Fortunately, he had gathered 5 of them.

3 cards were lost. He had not been able to find the lieutenants’ bodies.

There is strong security on it, but he can release it. If he can authenticate that the cadres were killed, it comes over naturally.

-[Fingerprint and eye recognition, 100% match! 3rd Lieutenant Andre Gordon confirmed! Main system operation. Restoring the authority of commander.]

“The captain and 5 lieutenants died. I want to receive succession of the title.”

The Lieutenant entered the 5 cards. The main system identifies the cards.

-[Main system down 4 years 3 months 21 days. Tracking card location.]

While the setting was being completed, it went into tracking. The computers turned on and started to split. They are the thousands of CCTVs that surveil the ark.

-[2nd, 5th, and 6th Lieutenants’ cards location confirmed in engine room. Bizarre alien creature found.]

“That’s!”

“Infection pocket!”

# Chapter 97

The CCTV shows them the engine room. In the room, there is an infection pocket as big as a truck that seems to be sleeping. They can guess that it is the source.

Woong!

The hidden CCTV turns around the area. It is a tomb of bones. The location tracking of the lieutenants is received from inside. Their deaths are confirmed.

“The engine room is near the broiler. It is far from headquarters.”

“Can we reach the search party on the radio?”

“We can because that much is under my authority. I will connect you.”

The ark always has a firewall in activation in order to prevent enemies from tracking and hacking. That is why their radios had not been going through smoothly.

[Bizarre alien creatures and intruders in bunker 2. Battle engagement among soldiers.]

The main system checks everything that happens on the ark with ease. It may have some shortcomings, but it is like looking at the helpers on their PDA.

The main system must find the presence of the force uncomfortable, because it calls them intruders. More than that, the term ‘battle’ is disconcerting.

Bang bang!

The image of Park Jin Hyuk and the party members fighting in a craze shows up on the bunker CCTV. The soldiers are ridden with fear and barely giving their support.

“Crazy!”

Cha Jun Sung yelled. Park Jin Hyuk is taking on 5 mutants by himself.

Even still, he is engaged and the fight is tight. They seem to be level 3. The party members are also fighting in pairs, but they are being overwhelmed. It is a fragile balance. The side that breaks is the side that loses.

“Hurry up and check CCTV number 17, and go through with the succession! And bring down the firewall!”

The Lieutenant urges the main system. Identification is required in confirming death. He took the cadres’ bodies to the bunker and left them where they are clearly visible.

[The Captain and 1st and 4th Lieutenants confirmed to be dead. 7th Lieutenant alive. Title succession following guidelines. Colonel Andre Gordon, you are the captain of the ark.]

Woong!

The firewall has been brought down. The radio where they had only heard noise, becomes clear.

[Search party, respond. Can you hear me?]

Han Chang Jin rushes to radio in to the search party. It is a dangerous situation.

[Huh? I can hear you. So you’ve recovered the main system.] [The source is in the engine room. We expect it to be a level 4 infection pocket, and it is as big as a 3-ton truck. And the bunker is under attack right now.] [The bunker!] [The only thing caught on the CCTV is the infection pocket. Can you take care of it?] [We can do it if we have Hercules. Support the bunker.]

“We need people to guard this place, so I will stay here with 1 party. 3 parties will go back to the bunker. The path will be described through the CCTV.”

They had come through it, but it was so complex that they could not remember it after one time. They need to capture the engine room and they need to protect the bunker. Everyone became busy.

“Main body!”

“No! It’s the same as what we saw in sleeping room 1! If it infects, that’s a level 4!”

Cha Jun Sung ran. Koharu and Kyoko followed him as well. The party members were torn, but they also followed suit when Han Chang Jin sent the signal.

[I will tell you the path. Go left at the first crossroads... Then right.]

Han Chang Jin and the other party members let them know the paths to the bunker and the engine room. The situation flowed quickly. The interest inside went to that side.

“Ack! It’s war! It’s a war with parasites! We need to annihilate them!”

The Lieutenant had a smile of madness. He input the commands he could not understand from Han Chang Jin’s group and manipulated the dusty machines.

They continued this boring work for several hours.

[Captain approval. Route reset. Pass destination. Operate engine.]

The route twists.



Bang!

Park Jin Hyuk was hit by a strong force and almost fell, but extended his arm to break his fall. He left without delay.

Kyak!

4 hosts will not stop following him. They cannot reproduce, but they cannot have peace of mind. The body died and it came out of the brain to try to infect him.

He killed 2 of them with concentrated attacks. When he fired the Head Hunter at the heart and brain, a brown parasite came flying out of its mouth as though spitting.

Kyak!

Puk!

When Park Jin Hyuk heard a scream from closeby, his eyes became overcast. A party

member whose arms and legs are broken, is wriggling on the floor.

‘So they don’t kill.’

The infestors can only take over living creatures. They only wound the party members and kill the soldiers. They are keeping the outstanding candidates for infection alive.

On Park Jin Hyuk’s side, he is at an advantage. It is hard, but he can get the other 3 if he fights without stopping. The problem is the other side.

They are being pushed back significantly. 5 of the party members are wounded and half of the soldiers are dead. Did they die while fighting? No. Most of them died while running away.

4 hosts died and 6 are left. It would be good if the search or restoration teams would send them support, but how would they know to send help?

[Jin Hyuk, can you hear me?] [Jun Sung?] [The main system has been recovered and the radios work. Are you okay?]

Park Jin Hyuk brightens up. Luck has not abandoned him.

[3 parties are going back to the bunker. Give us 30 or 40 minutes. Don’t let them get out since there are 4 level 4 brown infestors outside!]

He gets goosebumps. He had been expecting it, but to think that there are 4 level 4 brown infestors. If they get through, this becomes hell. It is annihilation for the 3 parties coming in as well.

“He said 40 minutes at the most? We’ll be able to hold out if I keep it up.”

The chance of winning is decreasing, but he can do it if it is withstanding it and not trying to win. Even if the party members and soldiers all die, he can hold out for that time.

“Ack! Don’t come!”

One of the infestors that can move freely, is making a fuss among the soldiers.

It is like a wolf among sheep. The party members were fighting with 2 and could not

give support. Park Jin Hyuk was also held back by 3 of them.

“There’s nothing I can do. If I overdo it and die, it really is the end.”

He cannot gamble with hundreds of lives including his own in order to save a few people. He feels sorry. They need to be sacrificed for the many.

“I’m going to live!”

One of the soldiers lost his sanity when he saw a colleague being eaten up by the infestor. As he kept going backwards, he got blocked in a dead end.

But that dead end happened to be the bunker entrance. There is nowhere to run. An infestor approaches him from the front and the only way out is there.

Kik!

Kwajik!

Everyone’s thoughts stopped. It happened absurdly and stupidly. The soldier had nowhere to run, so he opened the bunker door and ran out.

Then, the 4 infestors that were waiting outside took over the soldier.

“Get away from the entrance! Get the party members and everyone get back! Hurry!”

Before getting angry, he gets a hold of the situation. If he cannot turn it back, he needs to at least prevent the infection. Even a level 4 brown infestor is just a bug.

Tang tang tang tang.

Park Jin Hyuk fired the Head Hunter. He is trying to provide cover until the party members drag the wounded away. But the infestors prevented this.

“Get away!”

He kicked at the infestors that were trying to attack from the back. He used that rebound to attack the ones on either side as well.

Even then, he did not take his eye off of the Head Hunter’s scope.

‘This is tiring. My stamina is falling too quickly. I won’t be able to hold out for long.’

Fighting level 3 infestors and 4 brown infestors at the same time takes an inexpressible amount of concentration.

He was already tired, but going through psychological warfare exhausted his mind and body. The party and soldiers were not able to fulfill their own parts.

Park Jin Hyuk took responsibility for 90% of the battle. He is taking on the burden of the battlefield all on his own. It would not be enough even if he had 10 hands and feet.

The infestor bites Park Jin Hyuk’s shoulder with its sharp teeth. His metal armor crinkles under the force. They attack him in other places as well.

“What are you biting! You think I’ll lose to guys like you!”

He ignored the one that bit him, grabbed the one coming at him from the left by its neck, and ripped it off. He ripped the skin and brought the bones out.

“Let go!”

Tang tang!

He aimed the Head Hunter toward his shoulder and pulled the trigger. The host’s head exploded into pieces and even swept the brown infestor stuck to the brain.

The one with the broken neck could not make the body listen, and searched for another body to infect. Park Jin Hyuk would not leave it alone to do so.

He picked up a flamethrower from the ground, and showered it with flames.

One that was waiting for a chance to attack, stepped out of range. It knows that the flamethrower is the most dangerous weapon to it.

“If you get farther away from me, it’s only bad for you.”

Bang!

An explosive shell stuck to the host’s chest and exploded. He killed all 5. All that is left are a few level 3 and the 4 brown infestors.

[You have earned 1200 points and 600 achievement points.]

It is lower class in level 3. If it had been a Slayer, even 2 would have been too difficult to handle. Their level led the victory to a 5:1 battle.

While retreating, the party members and soldiers killed 1 level 3. The situation is not good. The brown infestor avoided everything and followed him around.

“First, the brown.”

Park Jin Hyuk stopped breathing and aimed carefully. He needs to kill 1 with 1 shot no matter what. That is the only way to handle the situation quickly.

Too!

The host burning in the fire spit the infestor at Park Jin Hyuk. It is an alter ego that gave up the brain. He was not able to avoid it because his attention was somewhere else.

It had been a mistake not to pay attention to the notifications because he was busy with the battle.

Ack!

The infestor went inside the metal armor, and dug into the right hand that was trying to pull the trigger. He can feel the infestor coming up.



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